



SCHWABEN PARK

ANIMAL SUFFERING AND PUBLIC DECEPTION AT SCHWABEN PARK, GERMANY

A report by Animal Equality on the abuse of chimpanzees
and other animals at a zoo and circus in Southern Germany

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Animal Equality

is opposed to the holding of animals in captivity for entertainment purposes, or under the guise of 'education' or 'conservation'

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METHODOLOGY

Between the months of April 2012 and February 2013, Animal Equality carried out an investigation at the amusement park and zoo - Schwaben Park, in the Welzheimer Forest, Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany.

At the park, 44 chimpanzees and other animals, including tigers, goats, sheep, alpacas, pigs and birds, are housed in cages and enclosures. The area of the park, according to Google Earth, is 5.3 hectares. Many of the animals perform in circus-style shows, where they are forced to carry out tricks for the entertainment of visitors.

Investigators documented behaviour and husbandry at Schwaben Park to obtain a snapshot view of the situation for the animals housed there. The park was visited by investigators eight times, and each visit lasted around six hours. Animal Equality documented the situation through detailed notes, 350 photographs, and more than 500 minutes of video footage. To obtain a more detailed behavioural study, observations would need to be carried out over a longer period of time, using standard methods such as ethograms.⁶

Animal Equality also obtained information from the Schwaben Park website and social media, and from face-to-face and telephone conversations with employees both at the park, including one of the park managers, Thomas Hudelmaier.

During the investigation, Animal Equality focused mainly on the welfare of the chimpanzees at Schwaben Park, however investigators documented the behaviour and husbandry of all animals at the park, and their exploitation in the circus shows.

Following on from the field visits, Animal Equality forwarded material onto veterinarians, chimpanzee rescue and rehabilitation experts, ethologists and other captive wild animal experts to obtain their opinion on the findings.

The visits followed an official inspection of the park in January 2012 by a member of the state parliamentary party, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, as well as a delegation of experts from renowned institutions in Baden-Württemberg, North Rhine-Westphalia and Bavaria, Germany. During this inspection, a number of criticisms were made of the husbandry of the chimpanzees housed at the park.

A rather different point of view however was taken by a Dutch zoo-keeper and veterinarian, Jan Vermeer, who made an assessment of Schwaben Park during September 2012. Jan Vermeer himself had been the Director of adventure park and zoo, Metelen, which closed down in October 2011.

Vermeer's findings have been referenced in this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LIFE IN IMPRISONMENT

The animals at Schwaben Park are held captive throughout their entire lives without ever having the opportunity to live in a natural environment.

Despite a widespread assumption amongst the public, both government-owned and private zoos often result in stress, pain and suffering for detained animals. Animals in these facilities are caged for life and deprived of the opportunity to develop and fulfill a range of interests and species-specific needs. Incarcerated individuals have little control over their lives, and the environment in they are forced to live in, and consequentially often show an overall decrease in interaction with their environment.

At Schwaben Park, domesticated animals are housed in a 'petting' area that is accessible for visitors without any apparent staff supervision. In a barren and uniform enclosure of around 1,000 m², around 80 sheep and goats, four alpacas and four pot-bellied pigs, are housed. The area is barren and there is little opportunity for animals to retreat from visitors who are allowed unsupervised direct contact with them.

Further, Animal Equality has been provided with images taken in the deep freeze storage area of Schwaben Park. Carcasses of dead goats were observed and it is possible that the goats at the park are fed to the Siberian tigers also housed there.

Environmental enrichment such as toys, hammocks and tree imitations are provided to the chimpanzees, however they are extremely basic and, throughout the investigation, the animals ignored these items.

A LIFE FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT OF OTHERS

The animals at Schwaben Park are exploited for the entertainment of paying visitors in daily shows (which are promoted by the park on its own website and via social media). The number of shows per day is dependent upon visitor numbers, but there can be up to three chimpanzee shows, one bird show and one domestic animal show per day.

The shows, which have a comical element and are accompanied by loud music, feature animals performing a number of learned, highly unnatural behaviours and stunts. For example, cockatoos ride small bicycles and chimpanzees wear human clothing, drive motorised quad bikes, and perform handstands. Movement is restricted by handlers in the shows using collars, leashes and chains.

The instincts of wild animals remain intact, regardless even of the place they were born. Captive wild animals exploited in circus shows remain unpredictable and negative reinforcement, sometimes using physical violence, is often used to scare the animals into submission. This increases the likelihood of compliance by the animals, and the safety of handlers.





Pictures 1-3: At Schwaben Park, animals are presented in humanised forms in daily shows.

The shows at Schwaben Park teach visitors little about the animals' natural lives, their emotional capabilities and physical requirements.

Some of the chimpanzees housed at the park are also exploited in advertising and popular media. They are transported; sometimes long distances, to perform in unfamiliar surroundings, with unfamiliar people to appear in television shows, advertisements and alongside celebrities.

NOT IN ANIMALS' INTERESTS

The management of Schwaben Park claim to act only in the interests of the animals. It has been stated that the animals here 'enjoy' performing in the shows, and that infant chimpanzees are hand-reared by humans when they are rejected by their mothers. However, the high volume of hand-reared performing chimpanzees at the park, and the continuous breeding of these so-called 'poor mothers' indicate otherwise. The needs of the animals at Schwaben Park in fact appear subservient to the generation of profit.

Schwaben Park has a strong interest in continuing the animal shows as they are popular with visitors and attract large audiences. However, in order to guarantee a steady supply of chimpanzees for performances, it appears that for several years Schwaben Park has been separating newly born chimpanzees from their mothers, hand-rearing and training them. Data obtained in September 2012 by Dutch zoo-keeper and veterinarian, Jan Vermeer, reveals that at least 18 of the 24 chimpanzees born at Schwaben Park have been hand-reared, and at least ten of these 18 animals have performed in shows.

The most likely reason for the removal of so many chimpanzee infants from their mothers at Schwaben Park is to ensure a continuous supply of trainable young animals for performances. However, even if it were a truthful claim - that young chimpanzees are separated from their mothers at Schwaben Park because they have been rejected - why have such 'poor mothers' continuously been bred from? For example, one of the chimpanzees at Schwaben Park, Chita, has given birth to at least eight infants - all of whom were taken from her.

According to Thomas Hudelmaier, one of the Managers of Schwaben Park, chimpanzees can only be used in the circus-style shows until they reach sexual maturity, and thereafter they become too aggressive to handle. It is widely acknowledged that older chimpanzees are less docile, have increased physical strength, and more readily reject to being trained. It is not clear what the fate of the ex-performers is once they reach this period of their life, but the park management claim that the animals are integrated into existing groups within the park.

There can be many problems associated with integrating hand-reared and trained chimpanzees into existing chimpanzee groups however. Dr. Tobias Deschner from the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation has stated that the early separation of young chimpanzees from their mothers means that when the animals are older, they often cannot conduct themselves normally with other chimpanzees. Thus the likelihood of a successful introduction is reduced.

The removal of captive young chimpanzees from their mothers, unless absolutely necessary, is widely condemned, even amongst the zoo community. The psychological effects of this separation, on both infant and mother, can last a lifetime. The fact that such an inhumane practice has been carried out as routine at Schwaben Park again indicates a serious lack of concern for the animals' best interests.



Picture 4: An infant chimpanzee stares out through the dirty pane at visitors.

IMPAIRED PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE AND HEALTH

During the investigation, stereotypic, abnormal and repetitive behaviours were observed in chimpanzees and other animals at Schwaben Park, both in the enclosures and during the shows.

Investigators documented several animals performing abnormal behaviours, and evidence that abnormal behaviours had occurred previously. Cockatoos – which are birds particularly prone to self-plucking – appeared particularly affected by feather damaging behaviour (FDB) at the park. One animal's entire abdomen was featherless and, whilst investigators were not able to view the animal's living quarters, it is possible that FDB had been performed by this animal due to boredom, stress, and/or living a sub-optimal environment.

Stereotypic behaviours are compulsive, repetitive, and a sure sign that something is very wrong. Most occur when animals have failed to cope with, or remove themselves from, a stressful situation. One of the most obvious cases of stereotypic behaviours observed during the investigation was the locomotory stereotypic movements of one of the Siberian tigers who paced along the same path of her enclosure. Pacing is particularly common in wide-ranging captive carnivores, and indicates poor welfare and/or a sub-optimal environment.

Several of the chimpanzees also exhibited abnormal, repetitive, and stereotypic behaviours which, following the investigation, were confirmed by captive animal experts. Animals were observed rocking back and forth, blowing raspberrys, sucking their lips, salivating, and swaying against enclosure perimeters. Hair loss was also observed.

Whilst not immediately obvious, indicators of poor health were also observed at the park. For example chimpanzees had circular wounds (which may have represented recovery from a virus, or be the result of over-grooming), head wounds, ulcers and open sores on their bodies. Some individuals were documented with repetitive coughs.

VISITOR BEHAVIOUR

Studies have demonstrated that primates in particular can become extremely stressed when in forced close proximity with large, locomotory groups of visitors. During the visits to Schwaben Park, it became obvious to investigators that the public has a significant role in the lives of the animals residing there.

For example, investigators observed visitors banging and kicking at the windows of the small and narrow, inside infant chimpanzee areas. The young animals had no opportunity to retreat. Investigators filmed visitors behaving in an aggressive manner towards animals - mocking them with insults such as “arsehole” and “hobo”. One visitor was documented hurling a lit cigarette into an enclosure, and a chimpanzee proceeded to smoke it.

In the petting area where domestic animals were housed, visitors could feed and touch animals with no apparent staff supervision. They were observed pushing, pulling and yelling at animals who were crammed against the perimeter fence attempting to reach for food. Direct contact between animals and visitors can not only lead to stress for the animals, particularly if there is nowhere to retreat, but also the risk of disease transmission and injuries to both humans and animals.

The enclosures also contained some debris, which can cause some serious health problems for the animals if ingested.

THE EDUCATION FALLACY

Animal Equality challenges Schwaben Park to demonstrate how the exhibits and shows provide a meaningful educational message about the natural behaviour of, and threats to the animals residing there. Many animals suffer enormously in imprisonment, and this suffering manifests itself in psychological stress and disorders, and ritualistic, unnatural behaviours which means visitors learn nothing about their natural behaviour and emotions. The archaic circus-style shows are attended by families with small children who are likely to leave believing that animals naturally behave like clowns.

If the Schwaben Park teaches visitors anything, it teaches them a dangerous lesson – that humans have the right to enslave animals for their own entertainment.

THE CONSERVATION OF SPECIES AND THE PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUALS

Zoos often justify the incarceration and exhibition of animals with claims of species conservation and public education. However the vast number of captive animal facilities do not even house animals considered to be 'Endangered' in the wild. This was demonstrated in a 2011 study revealing that of the 1,601 species observed in 25 zoos across Germany, only 16% were considered 'Threatened', and only 2% of these were 'Critically Endangered' (Endcap 2011). Some zoos do operate 'in-situ' conservation programmes (i.e. reintroductions and field projects), but most animals languishing in zoos will never be introduced into their (often diminishing) natural habitat. Only 12% of the total number of species in the 25 German zoos appeared to be involved in European Species Management Programmes (Endcap 2011).

At Schwaben Park, it appears that chimpanzees are bred for the purpose of human entertainment, and the park management cannot realistically claim to be making any meaningful contribution to the conservation of wild chimpanzees. Animal Equality however holds that the conservation of species does not justify the incarceration of individuals.

Whilst many zoos have well-oiled Public Relations departments, which have successfully created the notion that zoos are necessary for the greater good of animals, zoos remain today commercial enterprises with the primary goal being the generation of profit.

TRADING IMPRISONED ANIMALS

Schwaben Park does not openly provide to visitors information on the origin of the chimpanzees who were not born there, nor the transfer of chimpanzees between different facilities. Schwaben Park has received at least 13 chimpanzees from other zoos and zoo-like facilities however, and has also transferred chimpanzees to other zoos. In 2012, for example, four chimpanzees were sent from the park to Grömitz Zoo in Germany.

The relocation of animals between zoos obviously has a great impact on individuals - the transport itself can cause stress and, perhaps more significantly, family groups are segregated and the social bonds formed over years broken. One of the four chimpanzees sent from Schwaben Park to Grömitz Zoo was removed from his mother, and an established social group, at the age of seven.

GENERAL FINDINGS

- Abnormal, repetitive and stereotypic behaviours, and evidence that these behaviours had been carried out in the past
- Wounds and injuries on animals
- Archaic circus shows portraying animals in a highly unnatural and demeaning way. Extensive research reveals that training methods are often based on negative reinforcement, for example violence and the withholding of food
- Little opportunity for animals to retreat from visitors, which can cause stress and health risks for animals, employees and visitors
- High noise levels generated by visitors and a train running through the park which may cause stress amongst the animals
- An absence of staff supervision. Visitors were observed throwing objects into enclosures. One visitor hurled a cigarette to a chimpanzee, who proceeded to smoke it. Visitors were also observed yelling at and mocking the animals
- A risk of zoonotic disease
- A general lack of educational content at the park, with the overriding public message that animals can be exploited for the entertainment of humans



Picture 5: This infant was documented self-clasping whilst sitting in a depressed, hunched posture on top of a small climbing structure. There was also head wounds on this animal which may have been the result of self-injurious behaviors. Psychologist, Dr. Stacy Lopresti-Goodman, who reviewed the investigation findings, stated that some of the chimpanzees at Schwaben Park may be suffering a complex post-traumatic stress disorder (CPTSD).

DOMESTIC ANIMALS

- Outdated feeding sessions that take place without staff supervision
- A lack of retreat areas for animals, which can be particularly problematic for 'flight', or prey animals. Visitors were observed pushing, pulling and yelling at the animals, which can cause stress and injuries
- An inadequately sized domestic animal enclosure - more than 80 animals are housed in an area around 1,000 m²
- Zero grazing, which is particularly problematic for the sheep, alpacas and goats, and a lack of vertical structures
- No obvious access to food during opening hours, aside from the food offered by visitors. Experts who reviewed the findings commented that many goats showed an alarming level of hunger, and that some animal appeared malnourished
- Conflicts and aggressions between the animals, likely to be fueled by food competition and hunger
- The possible feeding of goats to tigers in a near-by enclosure

TIGERS

- An inadequately sized enclosure with few retreat areas and meaningful furnishings
- Stereotypic behaviour – one animal paced repetitively along the same path

BIRDS

- Large featherless areas on the abdomens and wings of some birds. This loss of feathers is likely to be the result of feather-damaging behaviour (FDB), and can be interpreted as a sign of stress and or/a sub-optimal environment



Picture 6: A white cockatoo with an almost entirely featherless abdomen, which is likely to be the result of either a poor diet or, more likely, feather-damaging behavior (FDB). The loss of feathers or fur as a result of plucking or pulling (i.e. self-mutilation) is one of the most common signs of poor welfare in captive animals as it can indicate psychological suffering.

CHIMPANZEES

- Enclosures were small, and two infant chimpanzees appeared to be housed in solitary confinement
- Several chimpanzees performed abnormal, repetitive and stereotypic behaviours such as rocking, lip sucking head weaving and raspberry vocalisations. Upon reviewing the findings, an expert stated that some of the chimpanzees may be suffering a complex post-traumatic stress disorder (CPTSD)
- Apathy and resignation amongst some chimpanzees
- Repetitive coughs – one chimpanzee was coughing particularly severely. It is not known if this animal was receiving veterinary treatment
- At least 18 of 24 chimpanzees have been hand-reared. This is a practice that has to be avoided unless absolutely necessary because of the negative psychological effects on the animals. Trained chimpanzees are then at the park to behave more human-like, and less like chimpanzees - which is likely to make their reintroduction into established chimpanzee groups problematic

CONCLUSION

This investigation reveals a serious lack of concern by the management of Schwaben Park for the welfare and needs of the incarcerated animals. Animal Equality aims to bring an end to the exploitation of animals at this facility, and thus recommends the following:

- An immediate end to all animal shows
- An immediate end to the breeding of animals. If entire males and female chimpanzees must be housed together until more suitable accommodation is identified, then consideration should be given to a birth control method such as Depo-Provera for the female chimpanzees
- The relocation of existing animals to a non-commercial, non-breeding sanctuary that can offer the animals more suitable accommodation, so they can live out the rest of their lives free from exploitation. It should be a place where the animals' needs and interests are of the highest importance



Picture 7: An infant behind bars.

1. AN OVERVIEW OF SCHWABEN PARK

Schwaben Park is an amusement park in the Welzheimer Forest, Baden-Wurttemberg, (around 45 kilometers north east of Stuttgart), Germany.

1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PARK

Schwaben Park was founded in 1972 by the Hudelmaier family as a wild animal park. Six years after it opened its doors to the public, the first amusement ride was constructed. Today, the facility stretches across 5.3 hectares of privately-owned property, and continues to be managed by Thomas and Guido Hudelmaier.

Around 200,000 people visit the park annually (Graefe 2012) and they are entertained with amusement rides, the exhibition of animals, and circus shows.

Amusement rides include roller coasters, a ferris wheel, bumper cars and water slides. The layout of the park means that the animals are constantly exposed to high levels of noise from rides and a daily surge of visitors.

Whilst some animals may become habituated to such a noisy environment, it is possible that some individuals experience some kind of noise-related stress.

Schwaben Park houses 44 chimpanzees, making this one of the largest private collections of chimpanzees in Europe. These, along with two tigers and several other animals such as goats, sheep, alpacas, pot-bellied pigs and parrots are housed in cages and enclosures. The outside enclosure in which the chimpanzees are housed is divided into six partitions – each partition housing a single group of chimpanzees. The tigers are housed in an enclosure approximately 400 m², and the domestic animals are confined to a ‘petting area’ of 1,000 m².

The term ‘wild animal’ generally refers to a non-domesticated animal who is living freely. Domesticated animals may be more familiar with humans, as they have been isolated genetically over long periods of time (ADI/NAVS 2005). At Schwaben Park, both wild and domestic animal species are trained by handlers, and go on to perform in shows. However both wild and domesticated animals suffer from confinement and forced interaction with conspecifics and humans.

Regardless of the type of animal, each individual has a need to move freely, control the environment, and make decisions such as when and what to eat and who to interact with. Regarding the chimpanzees and tigers, the enclosures at Schwaben Park are not comparable to their large territories in the wild, which means that these animals have limited opportunity to carry out a full repertoire of natural behaviours.



1.2 TRADING OF CAPTIVE ANIMALS

According to Jan Vermeer (2012a), Schwaben Park has received at least 13 chimpanzees from other zoos and zoo-like facilities (Vermeer 2012a). In Vermeer's report however, only four places of origin are referred to - Zoo Neuwied, Tierpark Nadermann, Taunus Wunderland and Zoo Wilhelma. One of the chimpanzees also arrived at Schwaben Park from a traveling circus.

On 6th November 2012, at a Bündnis90/Die Grünen parliamentary party meeting, Cornelia Jäger, who is the animal welfare representative for Baden-Württemberg, made a statement that some of the chimpanzees were transferred to Schwaben Park from the animal protection organisation, Bund gegen Missbrauch der Tiere e.V (BMT), however the Chairperson of BMT, Petra Zipp, has rejected this claim to Animal Equality. It appears that there has never been a transfer of chimpanzees to Schwaben Park from this organisation.

What is known is that four chimpanzees at the park - Sigi, Susi, Bubi and Nina - were transferred to Grömitz Zoo during March 2012 (Goldner 2012a). One of the chimpanzees, Sigi, was separated from his mother at seven years old (Mantik 2012).

The transferal of animals between zoos is common practice. Zoos are commercial facilities - they exhibit, breed and trade animals to generate profit and seal ties with other zoos and zoo-like facilities. Often to ensure a supply of charismatic, high-profile animals who will be popular with visitors. Animals are often separated from the families and social groups to which they are accustomed, and moved to an unfamiliar environment to live with unfamiliar individuals. They are transported, sometimes long distances, to other facilities by road or air which can cause stress and suffering.

Once they have reached their new homes, animals are forced to integrate with unfamiliar individuals. This can be particularly difficult for animals who have been hand-reared by humans. Regarding chimpanzees, it has been demonstrated that the adaptation of hand-reared individuals into an unfamiliar, established group presents risks to all individuals involved.

1.3 CIRCUS SHOWS

In circuses, seemingly 'happy' animals perform tricks for the amusement of visitors. When they are off-exhibit, and out-of-public view, the performing prisoners are at the mercy of handlers. Many are subject to harsh training methods which rely on negative reinforcement to make them compliant (Animal Equality 2011).

According to an employee at Schwaben Park, the first chimpanzee show took place around 40 years ago, and involved two or three animals. Today, around six young chimpanzees perform for an audience. The animals are dressed in human clothing, and performing rehearsed behaviours. Throughout the shows, the chimpanzees are chained and leashed (Pix 2012). There is no commentary on the natural life of chimpanzees during the show, only loud music and the handlers instructions. Shows can take place up to three times a day (depending on visitor attendance), and each show lasts approximately 20 minutes.

Thomas Hudelmaier and his wife, Silvia Hudelmaier, raise chimpanzees by hand and train them for shows. Infants are raised for the first year or so of their life in the Hudelmaier family home, and later in the park itself. It has been stated by Hudelmaier himself that older chimpanzees cannot be used for the shows because they are too aggressive (Graefe 2012).



As at September 2012, at least 18 of at least 24 chimpanzees who are likely to have been born at Schwaben Park had been raised by hand, and at least 10 out of the 18 individuals who had been hand-reared at the park were currently performing, or have done so in the past. Of the eight remaining animals who had been hand-reared, but not used in shows, some were still too young to perform. It is possible that these individuals will go on to perform in the future. This indicates that Schwaben Park removes infant chimpanzees from their mothers for this purpose.

As well as the chimpanzee shows at Schwaben Park, there are also parrot and domestic animal performances in which dogs, goats, a hen and a pig perform rehearsed tricks, including jumping through hoops, crawling on the ground, rolling on the floor and 'playing football'.

During the parrot show, at least five macaws and three cockatoos perform. The animals lay on a rope for the handlers, and push scooters, bicycles and rolling boards with their bodies and beaks. There is also a rehearsed performance where a macaw 'saves' a cockatoo from a small toy house on fire.

Picture 8: Six, mainly young, chimpanzees were forced to perform humiliating stunts in the show.

Both wild and captive animals experience suffering when forced to train and perform in these type of circus shows, which involve a diverse repertoire of demeaning tricks, unnatural behaviours and stunts.

The shows at Schwaben Park have a comical element, and are accompanied by loud music which has been demonstrated to constitute a further source of stress for captive animals.

2. ABNORMAL, REPETITIVE AND STEREOTYPIC BEHAVIOURS

Animals do not belong in confinement. The lives of many are naturally complex, and this complexity is virtually impossible to replicate in captivity. Captive animals often lead dull and purposeless lives, and preventing natural behaviour patterns in animals often gives rise to stress and frustration (Mason and Cooper 2001; Dawkins 1988). For example, animals are equipped with foraging skills which have evolved to fit their lifestyles and vigorous searching behaviours and food acquisition can take up a large proportion of an animal's day in a natural habitat (Ofstedal et al. 1996). The temporal and the spatial distribution of natural food resources are typically diverse and an animal's natural ranging and foraging activities are constrained by captivity (Shepherdson et al. 1998).

The variety of day-to-day life in the wild is missing in the zoo (Mason and Clubb 2003). When animals are housed in barren, sterile environments, they can become aggressive, stressed and withdrawn, which can in turn lead to the performance of abnormal, repetitive and stereotypic behaviours (Animal Equality 2011). Unhappy animals may rest for prolonged periods, especially when there is little else for them to do. They may over-eat, over-groom, starve themselves, self-mutilate, or beg for food.

Zoos are often also unable to meet the social needs of animals – for example group-living animals may be forced into unnatural groupings, or solitary confinement, and solitary animals forced to live in small spaces with groups of conspecifics.

Abnormal behaviours include repeated rocking, head-bobbing, bar-biting, eating and throwing faeces, swaying and pacing (Animal Equality 2011). Some other examples include (Meyer-Holzapfel 1968):

- Abnormal escape reactions
- Refusal of food
- Abnormal aggressiveness
- Self-mutilation
- Abnormal sexual behaviour
- Perversion of appetite
- Apathy
- Prolonged infantile behaviour and regression

As described in the 2011 Animal Equality report 'Caged Lives', self-harming behaviours that are performed by humans suffering from a range of psychological problems are performed by captive animals (Animal Equality 2011). These behaviours range from mild self-harm (e.g. over-grooming), to severe biting (e.g. self-mutilation).

Whilst infectious and non-infectious causes of skin irritation should be ruled out as a cause of self-harm, it is typically more prevalent when the environmental conditions are poor and, through an assessment of an animal's situation, it can be assumed that the cause of these behaviours is likely to be psychological.

2.1 STEREOTYPIC BEHAVIOURS

Behaviours that can be the most concerning are ritualistic and indicate a mentally disturbed state. Repetitive, unvarying behaviours are termed 'stereotypies' (Mason 1991a) and are long-considered indicators of poor welfare (e.g. van Keulen-Kromhout 1978). They have been compared to obsessive compulsive disorders (OCDs) in humans. In humans, stereotypies and extreme unresponsiveness are indicators of depression and other disorders associated with an inability to control the environment. In non-human animals, they similarly represent attempts by the animal to control its environment, such as escape attempts, aggressive acts against caging, and patrolling a territory (Meyer-Holzapfel 1968). Parallels have been drawn between behavioural disorders in children and animals: The term 'jactatio capitis' describes the rocking of the head and the upper part of the body, mostly prior to falling asleep, in serious cases. It has been often assessed that the child has suffered grave frustrations and mother-deprivation. This behavioural disorder also exists in infant apes who were isolation-reared (Meves 1991).

It has also been revealed that, as the environmental complexity reduces, animals display a corresponding decrease in behavioural variability and an increase in self-directed behaviours. Gradually the animal closes off from the environment, instead of interacting with it, in an effort to cope with the stressors (Mason 1991).

Behaviours termed 'stereotypic' usually fall into two categories – locomotor stereotypies (i.e. repetitive routes of locomotion), and stationary stereotypies. Neither are performed by free-living animals (Animal Equality 2011). Whereas a free-living animal is able to control the amount of incoming stimulation, in captivity he or she cannot (Zoocheck 2005).

Mental illness is common amongst zoo animals and captivity in itself induces the repetition inherent in stereotypic behaviour: by causing frustration; and/or by altering the central nervous system functioning through stress and/or through impeding normal development (Mason and Rushen 2006).

There is also a link between maternal deprivation and stereotypic behaviours (e.g. Mason and Latham 2008). Animals housed in zoos are often separated from their families at a young age. They may also be transferred to different exhibits or sent off to participate in breeding programmes elsewhere (Animal Equality 2011).

Even if the environment is subsequently altered following the onset of stereotypies, the behaviours can become so deeply manifested, they remain (Mason 1991).

In summary, stereotypies are considered to be indicators of poor well-being for three main reasons:

Even if the environment is subsequently altered following the onset of stereotypies, the behaviours can become so deeply manifested, they remain (Mason 1991). In summary, stereotypies are considered to be indicators of poor well-being for three main reasons:

- They are linked with aversive environmental conditions
- They often develop from attempts to perform specific behaviours
- They are often linked with physiological signs of stress

3. LIFE AT SCHWABEN PARK

3.1 SIBERIAN TIGER (*PANTHERA TIGRIS ALTAICA*)

The Siberian tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*) inhabits the Russian Far East and northeastern China, and is adapted to live in temperatures below -40 degree Celsius (Matthiessen 2000). Tigers are generally solitary, only coming together during mating, and adults maintain exclusive home ranges. The predominantly nocturnal Siberian tiger is extremely active, can range long distances, and has a territory of up to several thousand km (Austermühle 1997). The animal can reach speeds of more than 80km/h, is an excellent swimmer (National Geographic 1997), and has been revealed to swim across rivers 6km to 8km wide (Walker and Nowak 1999).

Wild Siberian tigers naturally avoid humans, and researchers often have difficulties tracking these shy animals (Matthiessen and Hornocker 2000).

THREATS

Siberian tigers are categorised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species as Endangered, and listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The illegal trade in high-value tiger products (including skins, bones, meat and tonics) is a primary threat to the tiger. Conversion of forest land to agriculture, commercial logging, and human settlement are also main drivers of tiger habitat loss. Tiger attacks on farmed animals and people has additionally led to an intolerance of tigers by local communities (Chundawat et al. 2011).



Picture 9: Two female Siberian tigers live at Schwaben Park –‘one paces continuously’ along the perimeter of her small enclosure. ‘The tiger is obese, and of course, grossly confined for a large predator whose natural home range is hundreds of square kilometres’ - Dr. Johnathon Balcombe, Department Chair, Animal Studies, Humane Society University, United States.

SIBERIAN TIGERS AT SCHWABEN PARK

Scientific literature reveals that carnivores, and in particular members of the cat family and bears, suffer greatly in captivity and many studies have demonstrated that these animals frequently perform stereotypic behaviours. For example, a study by Lyons et al. (1997) focused on nine species of felids in 11 different enclosures at Edinburgh Zoo, Scotland. The authors observed stereotypic pacing in 15 out of 19 cats (i.e. 79%).

Environmental complexity, or rather lack of it, is thought to play a role in the incidences of such behaviour.

Close to the chimpanzees, two female Siberian tigers are housed in a rectangular enclosure. One of the animals has an abnormal gait which, according to the park managers, is due to the congenital malposition of a limb. The animal is also overweight, which may be a result of inactivity or an inappropriate diet.

A particular lifestyle in the wild confers vulnerability to welfare problems in captivity (Mason and Clubb 2003). Siberian tigers are strong and fast runners, yet the tigers at Schwaben Park cannot run more than a few meters. Several studies have revealed that animals who would naturally cover long distances are more likely to show abnormal, stress-induced behaviors, and evidence of psychological dysfunction in captivity (e.g. Mason 2002; Robbins et al. 1996; Lewis et al. 1996; Bahr et al. 1998).

During the investigation, the pacing of one Siberian tigers was documented. Upon viewing the findings, Veterinarian and Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, Dr. Andrew Knight, stated that the Siberian tiger compound appeared barren and space-limited, given the enormous territories these animals would naturally explore in the wild (see Appendix).



3.2 PARROTS (PSITTACINES)

Parrots inhabit predominantly tropical and subtropical regions, moving amongst treetops at high altitude. These highly social animals form close-knit groups, and can congregate in large coveys of over 100 individuals (Hoppe 1992). Parrots are exceptional and fast flyers and, in the wild, sleep preferentially in tall trees for protection (Hoppe 1992). Cockatoos belong to the family Cacatuidae. All species of cockatoo are highly social and roost, forage and travel in flocks which can contain thousands or even tens of thousands of individuals. They can travel great distances between roosting and feeding sites.

PARROTS AT SCHWABEN PARK

In captivity, parrots are often housed in solitary confinement which can lead to the development of behavioural disorders. It is true that when housed in cages away from other parrots, the animals often build up close bonds with human companions, however this cannot compensate for companionship of their own kind.

At Schwaben Park, there are housed several different parrot species - amongst them cockatoos and macaws. During opening hours, the parrots perform in shows where they perform highly unnatural behaviours, such as riding small bicycles, and firing mini cannons.

Judging by the appearance of several parrots at Schwaben Park, the welfare of these highly social, wide-ranging and intelligent animals should be of concern.

For example, investigators observed one white cockatoo with an almost entirely featherless abdomen, which is likely to be the result of either a poor diet, or feather-damaging behavior (FDB).

The loss of feathers or fur as a result of plucking or pulling (i.e. self-mutilation) is one of the most common signs of poor welfare in captive animals as it can indicate psychological suffering (Animal Equality 2011).

It has been stated that, without a doubt, some unfortunate circumstances cause birds to self-mutilate, and that an important triggering factor is the absence of companionship so that the birds become emotionally stunted (Hoppe 1992). Visitors can easily observe the results of FDB at Schwaben Park, and may well leave with the impression that this poor body condition is normal.

Pictures 10-12: A cockatoo and several macaws with signs of FDB possibly due to boredom, stress, and/or living a sub-optimal environment.



3.3 DOMESTIC ANIMALS

The domestic animals at Schwaben Park fare little better than the wild animals. Scant consideration has been given to providing for their behavioural needs, which are highly influenced by wild ancestry. For example, the herding behaviour of domestic and wild horses is similar, as well as the predator responses in both domestic and wild herbivores. Bestselling author on the emotional lives of animals, Jeffrey Masson, has observed that within days of being freed from their cages, domesticated chickens take to roosting in trees (Masson 2003). Even after thousands of years of domestication, these animals still retain their normal species-typical behaviours.

It has been stated that the fact that some animals have been domesticated only means that their tendency to flee in the presence of humans has been eliminated (Price 1984).

The petting area at Schwaben Park is small (around 1,000m²), with a gravel and soil substrate, and zero grazing. Satellite imagery between the years of 2000 and 2008 reveal the drastic decrease in grazing. Naturally, ungulates such as goats and alpacas would spend a significant percentage of their daily time budget browsing and grazing on grasslands.

Picture 13: In the 'petting area' at Schwaben Park, around 80 goats, sheep and alpaca are exhibited with no access to food or pasture during opening hours. Instead visitors pay to feed the animals.



Picture 14: Experts who reviewed the investigation findings commented that many goats showed an alarming level of hunger, and that some animals appeared malnourished.



During the investigation, animals in the petting area appeared to have no access to food other than that which was offered by visitors. Dr. Andrew Knight stated that the crowd of animals, pressing up to the bars, reveals a 'disturbing level of hunger' (see Appendix). Ornithologist, Barry Kent McKay, stated that a goat was 'clearly and alarmingly emaciated' (see Appendix).

The animals in the petting area have little opportunity to retreat from visitors. This lack of privacy is an all-too common feature of zoos and serves the purpose of having animals continuously on display.

Another issue of concern is the location of the enclosure in relation to the tiger enclosure as they are in close proximity to each other.

Since the animals in the petting area are prey species, this may well constitute a source of stress. Prey animals show specific adaptations that allow recognition, avoidance and defence against predators (Apfelbach et al. 2005) and, for many mammalian species, an adaptation for predator avoidance is sensitivity towards predator-derived odours (Apfelbach et al. 2005). Studies on mammalian changes in behaviour when exposed to the presence of a predator, have shown responses such as, anxiety-like behaviour and long lasting neural circuit changes in the brain (Apfelbach et al. 2005).



Picture 15: Employees at Schwaben Park state that, in winter, the goats remain in the 250m² barn located inside the enclosure.

3.3.1 ALPACAS

The alpaca is descended from the vicuña (Kadwell et al. 2001), and has been domesticated over some 6,000 to 7,000 years (Kadwell et al. 2001). The species inhabits and grazes on the grassy slopes of Bolivia, Argentina and Chile, at altitudes of 3,200 to 4,800m asl (Lichtenstein 2008).

It has been stated that whilst alpacas acclimatise easily to new environments and humans, as flight animals they sense movement particularly well, and unknown situations and moves can trigger fear responses (Otterstedt 2007).

Alpacas are gregarious in nature - living in herds of up to eight animals (Felix 1981). They are herbivorous and require fresh, clean hay, grass and mineral feed in captivity. Alpacas also have a high demand for crude fiber (Otterstedt 2007). Unique amongst the ungulates is the alpaca's regrowth of teeth, which means that in captivity, because food and substrate is not as harsh as it would be in the wild, regular tooth and hoof trimming is carried out.

ALPACAS AT SCHWABEN PARK

Schwaben Park houses four alpacas in the petting area, along with goats and other animals. The mixing of animal species is only conditionally recommended due to problems such as a higher intake of gastro-intestinal parasites and the behavioural differences between animal species (Otterstedt 2007).

No grass or hay was observed in the petting area, and one alpaca was documented chewing the iron bars of the enclosure in a repetitive, apparently functionless manner. Dr. Andrew Knight stated: 'An alpaca was witnessed bar-chewing, and a goat observed chewing trash. These behaviours may reflect hunger, or stress' (see Appendix). An alpaca was also observed with overgrown hooves, which indicates poor management.

Animals are forced into close contact with visitors in the petting area, however for many animals, before full trust can be gained a relationship must be gradually built up (Otterstedt 2007). The animals at Schwaben Park experience only brief interactions with different people each day, and investigators observed that not all of these interactions were positive.





Picture 16: An alpaca was documented chewing the iron bars of the enclosure in a repetitive manner 'which may reflect hunger, or stress' – Dr. Andrew Knight, Veterinarian.

3.3.2 GOATS

Wild goats inhabit the mountainous terrain (Lee et al. 2007) and dry areas of Eurasia, North Africa and North America (Petzsch et al. 1992). They are social, intelligent animals who are skilled climbers, living in herds on a varied landscape and foraging on plant food across a wide territory (Petzsch et al. 1992). Herd size is usually small – only a few dozen animals. Predation risks and food availability are major evolutionary forces shaping habitat use by goats. One of the most important features of the habitat is the proximity to safe terrain (Jensen 2009).



Picture 17: Visitors are unsupervised and were observed grabbing, pushing and attempting to catch young goats in the petting area.

Flight is the most important defence mechanism of the goats and if this mechanism is being restricted, the animal may panic. Thus space availability is important (Kaminski et al. 2006), and there is a clear dominance hierarchy that, once established, remains stable over time (Barroso et al. 2000). Despite a long period of domestication, goats adapt easily when released into their natural habitat (Petzsch et al. 1992).

GOATS AT SCHWABEN PARK

At Schwaben Park there are at least 65 goats housed together with the other animals in the petting area. Employees at the park have stated that, in winter, the goats remain in the barn located inside the enclosure. According to Google Earth, the area of this barn is only around 250m². It is possible that the goats are bred from to ensure a continuous supply of infants for the visitors to feed. During the investigation, Animal Equality was sent an image of the carcasses of goats in the cooling chamber at the park. This disposal of goats is not publicised to visitors at the park.

The petting area is relatively flat and uniform and, during opening hours, the goats have nowhere to retreat from visitors or conspecifics. Investigators observed several instances where the animals were teased, pushed and kicked by visitors. The animals had their horns, tails and ears tugged. One goat was observed chewing on debris (see Appendix).





Pictures 18-20: Images provided to Animal Equality of the deep freeze storage area at the park. Carcasses of dead goats lay in containers, and it is possible that they are fed to the Siberian tigers.

3.3.3 SHEEP

Wild sheep live in the hilly areas and elevated ground of Eurasia, North Africa and North America. Group-living herbivores such as goats and sheep distribute themselves across patchy resources in a way that minimises interference competition and demonstrates the importance of individual variability for spatial organisation at the level of the group (Michelena et al. 2008).

Domestic sheep still show the diurnal shifts in behavior shown by their wild progenitors. In temperate climates, sheep graze in the morning, rest and ruminate at midday, and graze again and move uphill in the evening. In high temperatures, sheep spend more time in the shade and change their foraging patterns so that most grazing occurs in the evening (Jensen 2009). As with goats, sheep graze and forage for around eight hours a day, although this may increase to around 13 hours if suitable forage is sparse (Jensen 2009). Similar also to goats, predation risks and food availability are the major evolutionary forces shaping habitat use (Jensen 2009).

SHEEP AT SCHWABEN PARK

In captivity, sheep require grassy pasture, as well as enough water troughs and feed stations to minimise food-competition (Otterstedt 2007). At Schwaben Park, there is only one feed station, and during the investigation, it lay empty. There are no grazing opportunities for the sheep and other ungulates.

Sheep tend to be timid, cautious and always ready to flee. An aversive situation is perceived as less stressful by sheep when they can exert control over it (Greiveldinger et al. 2009). They therefore benefit from the presence of retreat areas in captivity. The uniform, flat petting area at Schwaben Park, and the lack of retreat areas highlight a lack of consideration for these animals' needs and welfare.

3.3.4 PIGS

The Eurasian wild boar is an ancestor of today's domestic pig. Wild boars are adapted to a variety of landscapes, including forests and savannahs. They are mainly nocturnal animals, and they move in groups. Male boars however live partly in solitude (Peitz 2007). Group size has behavioural effects - in large groups, pigs of a low rank can find it difficult to avoid aggressive encounters from higher-ranking individuals (Broom and Fraser 2007).

The social organisation of groups is based on the establishment of friendly relationships and hierarchy (Jensen and Wood-Gush 1984). For the hierarchy to function properly, group size and space allocation are vital (Broom and Fraser 2007).

It has been demonstrated that today's domestic pigs adopt a behavior repertoire similar to feral boars within just short time of being released into the wild. This indicates that pigs have not lost certain behavioural traits during domestication (Peitz 2007; Otterstedt 2007; Gieling 2011).

Studies reveal that wild boars are highly social, omnivorous (Graves 1984; Gustafsson et al. 1999), and mostly active during sunrise and sunset (depending on season, predator pressure, and food availability).

Wild boars in fact are active for around 65% of the day (Graves 1984). During foraging, they move between different feeding areas - grazing, browsing, and rooting with their snouts (Gielsing 2011). Rooting is an inherent need for pigs (van Putten 1978). Because pigs lack sweat glands, wallowing in mud or water is a common behavior to decrease body temperature (Jensen 2003; Broom and Fraser 2007; Gielsing 2011). A recent study indicates that pigs not only wallow to cool down, but also because they enjoy it (Bracke 2011). Wallowing therefore is an important activity for pigs. They are also efficient swimmers.

POT-BELLIED PIGS AT SCHWABEN PARK

At Schwaben Park, the two pot-bellied pigs suffer from a lack of privacy, wallowing areas, and rooting areas, forced contact with visitors, and insufficient space. The management at Schwaben Park clearly have a lack of understanding and/or concern for the animals in their 'care'.

4. WILD CHIMPANZEES (PAN TROGLODYTES)

Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) are one of the five types of great apes along with gorillas, orangutans, bonobos and humans. They are well-known for their intelligence, tool-use, and complex social behavior patterns. Chimpanzees, along with bonobos, are considered to be the most closely related species to humans. They are sentient animals who share the same emotions as humans - compassion, affection, jealousy, anger, generosity, embarrassment, sense of humour, joy and sadness. In all the animal kingdom, they are the closest to humans in terms of behavior and intelligence (Centre for Great Apes website).

4.1 HABITAT

Chimpanzees inhabit predominantly forests, in southern Senegal to western Uganda and western Tanzania (Oates et al. 2008). The species has a home range of between ten to 50km², depending on group size and food availability (Morris and Parker 2010). Groups of chimpanzees frequently roam their habitat, and much of the day is spent foraging at ground level or up in the trees.

The animals use intertwined branches and leaves to build sleeping nests which are usually around five to 20m off the ground, and offer protection from predators (Morris and Parker 2010).

4.2 SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Chimpanzees are sociable animals, living in communities of up to 100 individuals. They form close bonds with family members and other members of their group. Groups consist of smaller sub-groups of approximately three to 10 animals. Individuals within these sub-groups do not permanently bond as they frequently disperse and re-assemble. Female chimpanzees often leave their original groups between the ages of nine and 13 years old, sometimes joining another group up to 20km away (Morris and Parker 2010). This dynamic group composition has been coined a 'fission-fusion society' (Morris and Parker 2010), and is one in which the size and composition of the social group changes as time passes and animals move throughout the environment. Animals split and merge together.

Individuals within the groups have different roles (Morris and Parker 2010), and they share information through vocalisation (Morris and Parker 2010). The groups have sophisticated hunting strategies requiring cooperation, influence and rank, and it has been demonstrated that chimpanzees behave altruistically - a trait that was once only attributed to humans (Horner et al. 2011).

4.3 BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS

A chimpanzee usually gives birth to one infant per pregnancy (Morris and Parker 2010). Infant chimpanzees are almost entirely defenceless, requiring extensive maternal care (Morris and Parker 2010). They spend the first five years of their lives practically inseparable from their mothers. The bond between mother and infant is strengthened by frequent body contact (Morris and Parker 2010).

Mother chimpanzees also transfer personality traits, such as self-confidence, to the infant (Goodall 1971). If, in the wild, the mother of a young chimpanzee dies, the infant may be adopted by older siblings, or other relatives (Morris and Parker 2010). Maternal deprivation and social isolation at an early age can result in chimpanzees developing a variety of abnormal behaviors which can persist in perpetuity (Brune et al. 2006; Goodall 1986; Birkett and Newton-Fisher 2011; Bourgeois et al. 2007; Bradshaw et al. 2008).

Weaning occurs when the infant is around three and a half to four and a half years of age, yet even when young chimpanzees start foraging independently; they remain in close contact with their mothers. After five or six years, the mother is able to carry another infant. This long period of time between births is typical for hominids.

4.4 TOOL USE AND COMMUNICATION

The use of tools to obtain food has been documented across all chimpanzee populations. Chimpanzees are skilled at adapting objects in their environment so they can make new tools from them - an ability that was previously thought to only exist in humans. This indicates that chimpanzees are able to plan ahead, and solve problems. The knowledge of tool-making is passed onto infants (Morris and Parker 2010), and on through generations.

Communication by chimpanzees is both advanced and complex. Reasons for intelligent communication between wild chimpanzees include play, social interactions, reassurance, group foraging, hygiene, and discipline (Fouts and Fouts 1994). Chimpanzees can also recall the past, and predict future events. They can also communicate about objects not within their direct surroundings (Fouts and Fouts 1994). Research indicates, in fact, that chimpanzees would be able to learn a human communication system (e.g. Fouts and Fouts 1994).

Visual and vocal communication is important to chimpanzee societies in the wild. A suite of facial expressions, postures, and sounds function as signals during interactions between individuals and groups (Goodall 1986; Goodall 1971; Morris and Parker 2010). Ethologist and primatologist, Frans de Waal, has photographed chimpanzees making a diverse repertoire of threatening and playful gestures, and the emotions of the animals are clearly visible (De Waal 2004).

Waal captures chimpanzees comforting each other, 'dancing', grimacing, figuratively punishing, and making up with each other. Chimpanzees also have a sense of humour (De Waal 2004).

4.5 THREATS

Chimpanzees are categorised by the IUCN Red List as 'Endangered', listed under Appendix I of CITES, and Class A under the African Convention (Oates et al. 2008). Wild chimpanzees face an uncertain future due to the political instability in some range states, habitat destruction and degradation, disease (e.g. ebola), and hunting fueled by the illegal pet trade.

5. CHIMPANZEES AT SCHWABEN PARK

As at September 2012, Schwaben Park housed captive 44 chimpanzees, making this one of the largest captive chimpanzee collections in Europe. During the investigation, at least six of these animals were performing in circus-style shows at the park.

The outdoor enclosure housing the chimpanzees is divided into six sections, each housing a separate group of chimpanzees. In addition, there are indoor enclosures divided into eight sections that are out of public view. During the investigation, there were also two infant chimpanzees housed together in a separate crèche-type container.

5.1 HOUSING

There is a minimum requirements for chimpanzee housing outlined in the 1996 Guidelines for Animal Husbandry in Zoos (Säugetiergutachten), stating that two chimpanzees should be housed in an area that is a minimum of 25m², and for each animal thereafter, an area of at least 10m². Whilst the outside enclosure exceeds the guidelines, during the investigation four infant chimpanzees were locked inside rooms that were only around 7m² and 8m². In the winter months, this is particularly problematic as the animals cannot go outside due to low temperatures.

Such limited space means that animals can only express limited natural behaviours, which can lead to the prevalence of stereotypies and other abnormal behaviours, increased aggression towards other animals, increased susceptibility to disease, greater mortality and the presence of physiological indicators of stress (van Keulen-Kromhout 1978).

Wild chimpanzees are extremely active and there is a distinct and important hierarchy between males (Morris and Parker 2010). Smaller groups of chimpanzees join the larger, core group during temporary periods (Morris and Parker 2010). At Schwaben Park, the animals are forced to interact with the same individuals each day. The extremely limited space and static grouping means that there is little opportunity for chimpanzees to retreat from each other, and conflicts are likely to be common (Vermeer 2012a).

Abnormal behaviours were observed, probably as a result of such a bland, restrictive captive environment lacking in social and cognitive stimulation. For example, there is virtually a complete absence of vertical structures for the chimpanzees to utilise, yet in the wild these animals would lead a predominantly arboreal lifestyle. Chimpanzees can climb great heights, not only for security, but also enjoyment and play.

5.2 INFANT HOUSING

5.2.1 INFANTS AGED APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR OLD

Infants aged approximately one year old' are housed at the Hudelmaier family home for around the first year of their life (Vermeer 2012a). Thereafter they are housed in the park. During the investigation, the two youngest chimpanzees, Robbi and Anni, who were born in 2011, were confined in a renovated container with a perspex observation pane. The size of the container is approximately 8m² (Vermeer, 2012b) which is notably less than the recommended space allocation in Säugetiergutachten.

Inside the container, the two infants have little opportunity to explore, climb, play, or retreat from the constant stare of visitors, and their banging on the perspex pane. Investigators observed visitors using flash photography in the animals' faces (and there were no information signs requesting visitors not to do so), hammering their fists against perspex, mocking, yelling at and harassing the infants.

Adjacent to the container is a stage used for a puppet theatre. The shows are geared up for children visiting the park and include the performance of a magician. The noise levels generated from these shows are high, and the music, audience applause, shouts and whistles can be heard from the infant chimpanzee container.



Picture 21: Two infants spend their days in an 8m² room directly behind a noisy stage used for magic shows.

There is an additional cell-like, tiled room for infant chimpanzees of approximately 8m², with a height of approximately 2.5m². It has been stated that each of the indoor rooms have a height of no more than 4m² (Vermeer 2012a). There were no toys, furnishing or enrichment items inside the room during the investigation, and the room was bare except for a wood pile and straw. It can be assumed that the two youngest infants spend their time split between the container and the tiled room.

During the first year of life, infant chimpanzees in the wild feed on their mothers' breast milk around every three minutes of each hour (Goodall 1971).

At Schwaben Park, the mother-infant bond is broken when the infants are around a day old, and thereafter the infants are raised by human hands and placed in confinement within these rooms.

5.2.2 INFANTS AGED BETWEEN TWO AND THREE YEARS OLD

Between the years of 2011 and 2012, there were two Infants aged approximately two and three years old' born at Schwaben Park. These slightly older individuals are housed in another small, indoor room approximately 7m² (Vermeer 2012a). This room is adjacent to an outside area which, during the investigation, was being utilised by another group of chimpanzees. Within the room, environmental enrichment was provided in the form of hanging rubber tires, blankets and straps hanging from the ceiling.

Investigators observed that the infants revealed their faces from time to time to visitors through a plexiglass pane.



Picture 22: Three infants housed indoors.

They appeared keen to interact with passing visitors, and reached through a wire mesh to initiate contact. However, on other days, the infants were observed slouched on the floor in the center of the room, with an appearance of resignation.

Young wild chimpanzees spend much of their time in play and at the age of two and three years, this time spent playing increases considerably (Goodall 1971). Leading primatologist, Dr. Jane Goodall describes the behaviour as follows: 'what they like most is playing with other young chimpanzees chasing each other around tree trunks, jumping one by one through treetops, dangling from a branch by a single arm, shoving each other or wallowing gleefully on the ground, biting, hitting and tickling each other without causing harm' (Goodall 1971).

Play may be a learning process for young chimpanzees, yet it is clearly a very enjoyable activity at the same time (Goodall 1971). The infant chimpanzees at Schwaben Park have little opportunity to play or learn whilst they are in confined in this room, away from the other chimpanzees.

5.3 INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ENCLOSURES

In the wild, chimpanzees are arboreal, spending much time climbing, brachiating and constructing nests (Morris and Parker 2010), however at Schwaben Park the lack of useable vertical space for the animals means that these important activities are impossible. The chimpanzees have no contact with, or opportunity to manipulate, live vegetation aside from grass. Dead logs are provided in the outside enclosures, but furnishing is minimal and basic. In the inside rooms also, there is also little to keep these young, active and intelligent animals physically and mentally occupied.

However, any enrichment provided by Schwaben Park cannot compensate for the complexity of a natural environment. The animals at this facility live monotonous, predictable, boring and controllable lives.

5.4 STRESS AND ITS EFFECTS

5.4.1 THE ENVIRONMENT

For many species, social-living provides more benefits than simply enhanced foraging opportunities and predation avoidance - it is a major source of stimulation. The detrimental effects of social deprivation have been widely documented in many species, and are known to cause behavioural and physiological indications of stress (Tarou et al. 2000). The social environment of many species represents a constant source of complex mental stimulation - the complexity and variety of which cannot be replaced by any form of environmental enrichment (Young 2003). In captivity, it is vitally important to house animals such as chimpanzees in appropriate groups.

There are other environmental factors that may cause stress at Schwaben Park. For example, during the investigation, the doors separating inside and outside enclosures were closed - forcing the animals into the view of the public. Put simply, visitors pay to an entrance fee to view animals, not empty enclosures.

Investigators observed chimpanzees who were clearly distressed by the presence of visitors. Upon viewing the findings, psychologist, Dr. Stacy Lopresti-Goodman, stated: 'Visitors are recorded banging on the window of an infant chimpanzees' enclosure, yelling and making faces at the infant inside of their enclosure, and are seen throwing

objects at an adult chimpanzee inside of his/her outdoor enclosure. These are behaviours that chimpanzees perceive as a provocation and a threat' (see Appendix).

The chimpanzees are also forced to live in small, narrow enclosures and exposed to constant high noise levels. Chimpanzees have good hearing (Morris and Parker 2010), and research reveals that abnormal behaviors increase as noise levels increase. Enduring such a noisy environment on a daily basis can result in prolonged periods of elevated stress hormones which will have a detrimental effect on both the animal's state of mind, and health.

5.4.2 PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

Most wild animals, including those in captivity, retain a need to engage in their instinctive behaviour patterns. They should have some degree of control over their environment if they are to remain mentally and physically healthy. A lack of control and continual frustration of these patterns can lead to serious psychological problems (Zoocheck 2006).

One recent study concluded that separation from their mothers and other chimpanzees at an early age, and spending years in impoverished captive conditions, means individual chimpanzees engage in abnormal behaviors, such as repetitively rocking back and forth (Lopresti-Goodman et al. 2013).

Some of the most common abnormal behaviors observed in captive-living chimpanzees also include coprophagy (eating of faeces), the regurgitation and re-ingesting of food, and self-clasping (e.g. Birkett and Newton-Fisher 2011; Nash et al. 1999; Wobber and Hare 2011; Hook et al. 2002; Walsh et al. 1982). Also auto-aggressive behaviors, such as self-hitting, self-biting, and pulling out their own hair (Brune et al. 2006; Birkett et al. 2011; Walsh et al. 1982; Mason and Latham 2008; Davenport and Menzel 1963). Some animals engage in repetitive self-grooming in a localised area to the point they make themselves bald. While such behaviors may appear functionless, it is possible that these behaviors are engaged in as a means of self-stimulation in the absence of adequate enrichment, or are performed as a means of coping with stress (Brune et al. 2006; Birkett and Newton-Fisher 2011; Bradshaw et al. 2008; Wobber and Hare 2011; Dorey et al. 2009; Fabrega 2006; Novak 2001; Reimers et al. 2007).

During the investigation, the behavior of the animals at Schwaben Park was documented.

Behaviours observed included stereotypic behaviours, or evidence that abnormal, repetitive or stereotypic behaviours had occurred in the past - for example, rocking, head bobbing, scooting, lip sucking, raspberry vocalisations, head weaving, swaying, and over-grooming.

During the performances, the chimpanzees were also observed to carry out behaviours likely to be related to anxiety.

Both young and adult chimpanzees were documented self-clasping in a depressed hunched posture, which is a possible stress response and many behaviours observed at Schwaben Park would be widely recognised as being abnormal, and indicative of psychological distress and/or boredom.

Another abnormal behaviour carried out only by captive chimpanzees is stereotypic salivating, and studies reveal that this abnormal behaviour can be the result of boredom, or the lack of adequate nutrition. Investigators documented several chimpanzees who repeatedly spat out and regurgitated their saliva at Schwaben Park.

Upon viewing the investigation findings, Patti Ragan, Founding Director of the Center for Great Apes, Florida, USA, stated: 'These behaviours frequently occur in chimpanzees who have not been raised by their own chimpanzee mothers for the first five or six years of their life' (see Appendix).

Professor John Sorenson, from the Department of Sociology at Brock University, Canada, stated: 'The animals are extremely stressed, reduced to apathy and listlessness, huddled or engaged in repetitive rocking motions indicative of psychological breakdown' (see Appendix). These behaviors may even indicate a state of 'learned helplessness' - whereby the chimpanzees have learned to accept abusive behavior and or aversive situations, and are unable to escape, alter, or avoid stress.

Primatologist and chimpanzee rehabilitation specialist, Dr. Lorraine Docherty, stated: 'The enclosures at Schwaben Park have few if any areas outside where the chimpanzees can get away from public view. The chimpanzees' mental health appears to be compromised and this manifests itself in a range of abnormal behaviours as seen in your video clips such as repetitive stereotypical behaviours, raspberry vocalisations and excessive displaying. These behaviours are indicators of psychological suffering and of other disorders associated with inability to have control of environmental impacts, which is typical for zoo-living chimpanzees' (see Appendix).

Picture 23: An infant documented in an apparently depressed posture.



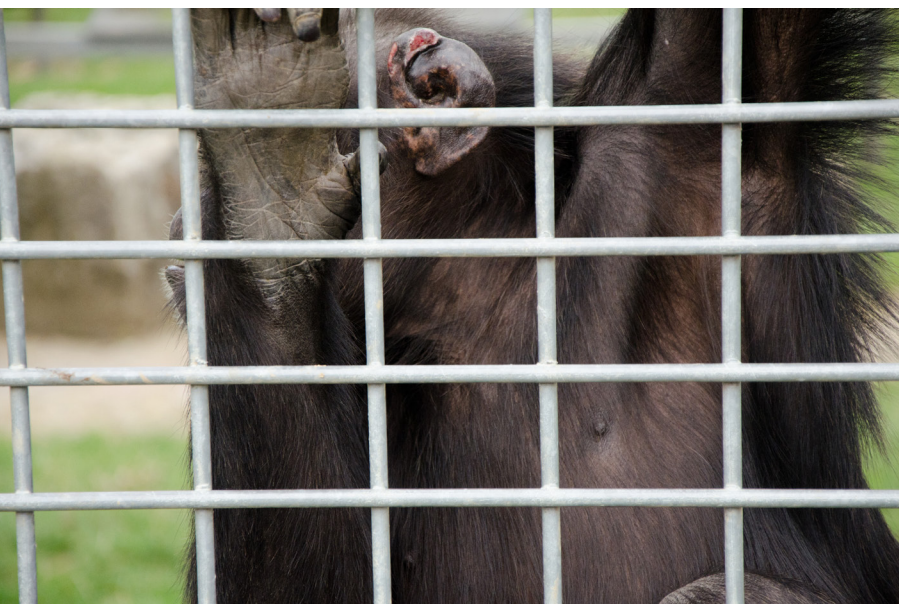
Given the many similarities in brain structures that are affected by distress in humans and chimpanzees (e.g. the hippocampus, the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis), and psychosocial and behavioral similarities between the two, many chimpanzees living in captivity display symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), complex post-traumatic stress disorder (CPTSD), and depression similar to that seen in humans. These symptoms are brought about by maternal separation, inadequate environmental conditions that lack cognitive enrichment, the confusing behaviors chimpanzees are forced to perform (e.g. wearing clothing and riding a motor bike) and the constant presence of and interaction with humans' (see Appendix).

Unfortunately, even if these animals were removed from their situation, researchers have found that many abnormal behaviors and signs of psychological distress are irreversible (Bowlby 1973; Kalcher et al. 2008; Martin 2002). For example, decades after two chimpanzees (Poco and Safari) were rescued from living in solitary confinement, these animals continued to engage in stereotypic behaviors that were the result of the psychological and physical trauma they endured early on (Lopresti-Goodman et al. 2013).

5.4.3 HEALTH EFFECTS

According to Jan Vermeer, who visited the park in September 2012, the chimpanzees were in 'perfect health'. His assessment concluded 'it is rare to see animals that are in such great condition' (Vermeer, 2012a). Animal Equality investigators, and the experts who reviewed the findings, had a very different impression.

During the investigation, chimpanzees were observed with circular wounds on their bodies which may have represented recovery from a virus, or be the result of over-grooming by themselves or conspecifics. Head wounds were observed, which again may have been the result of self-injurious behaviours. With regards to these behaviours, Dr. Lopresti Goodman stated: 'Chimpanzees, like humans who meet the criteria for CPTSD, which is brought about by prolonged and repetitive trauma as opposed to singular traumatic events, are more likely to engage in self-injurious behaviors as a way to physically relieve psychological distress. It is possible that the chimpanzees at Schwaben Park are experiencing symptoms of complex post-traumatic stress disorder CPTSD and this is what is resulting in their self-injurious behaviors' (see Appendix).



Pictures 24-25: Chimpanzees had numerous smaller wounds or ulcers on limb extremities and faces. The causes are unknown, but may include fighting or other traumatic events.

Hair loss was observed on the faces, heads, chests and the backs of the shoulders of chimpanzees. Dr. Lopresti Goodman stated that the hair loss may have been the result of stress induced self-directed behaviors (see Appendix).

Dr. Andrew Knight stated: 'Another chimpanzee had a swollen and ulcerated ear flap, suggesting the possibility of cancer, although additional tests would be required to achieve a diagnosis. Numerous smaller wounds or ulcers were observed on limb extremities and faces. The causes are unknown, but may include fighting or other traumatic events.' (see Appendix).

Some individuals had repetitive coughs. One of the younger chimpanzees who was housed in a group enclosure was particularly affected by it. Patti Ragan stated: 'I would hope that the young chimpanzee with the cough was under medical treatment with the veterinarian... they do catch colds from time to time and this could have been the result of a cold. But, it could also have been something much more severe.' (see Appendix).

It is clear that the chimpanzees at Schwaben Park are not 'in perfect health', but are in fact likely to be suffering due to the sub-optimal environment in which they are forced to live.



Pictures 26: Chimpanzees had circular wounds (which may have represented recovery from a virus, or be the result of over-grooming), head wounds, ulcers and open sores on their bodies.

5.5 HAND-REARING

The chimpanzee shows at Schwaben Park are popular with visitors. In order to ensure their continuity, it appears that infant chimpanzees are hand-reared in order to be trained for performances. The training of older chimpanzees means a greater risk of injury to handlers, and less compliance from the animals (Pix 2012; see Appendix). At least 18 of the 24 chimpanzees at Schwaben Park, who are likely to have been born, there have been raised by hand (Vermeer 2012a).

Out of the 44 chimpanzees currently living at Schwaben Park, at least 30 have been hand-reared (Vermeer, 2012a). The park management claim that the young chimpanzees exploited in the shows had been rejected by their mothers, and the animals have been separated for the safety of the infants (see Appendix). In the wild, if infants are rejected, they are often adopted by other members of the group (Boesch et al. 2010). Given the large number of infant chimpanzees who have been hand-reared and gone on to perform in shows (10 out of the 18 individuals, Vermeer 2012a), and the fact that hand-reared infants are more easily trained, this claim is dubious.

Whilst it has been demonstrated that captive chimpanzees, often as a result of being psychologically impaired, commonly lack species-specific behaviors, including maternal care behaviors (see Appendix), one should question why, even if this claim is true, the chimpanzees have continued to be bred from.

At least 75% of the chimpanzees born at the Park between the years of 1982 and 2011 were apparently rejected by their mothers.

Dr. Lopresti-Goodman stated: 'If this is the case, it is most likely the result of the inadequate and stressful environment they find themselves living in. By no means should Schwaben Park be allowed to continue breeding chimpanzees' (see Appendix).

According to Dr. Rietschel, the Schwaben Park veterinarian, contraception implants have been used to prevent the impregnation of chimpanzees who have rejected their infants (Pix 2012). However:

- In 2000 and 2006, Julchen gave birth to two infants who were removed to be hand-reared (and went on to perform)
- In 2010, she gave birth again to an infant who was hand-reared (and did not go on to perform)
- In 1991, Cindy gave birth to an infant who was removed to be hand-reared (and went on to perform)
- In 1994 and 2000, she gave birth to two infants who she raised (and did not go on to perform)
- In 1982, Mäde gave birth to an infant who was removed to be hand-reared (and went on to perform)

- In 1995, 2002 and 2009, Mäde gave birth another three times and raised her infants (none went on to perform)
- In 2000, Julia gave birth to an infant who was removed to be hand-reared (and did not go on to perform)
- In 2002, she gave birth again and the infant was removed to be hand-reared (and went on to perform)

Two of the chimpanzees at Schwaben Park, Kitty and Chita, had all of their infants taken from them and hand-reared. During 2004, 2006 and 2008, Kitty (Chita's hand-reared daughter) gave birth. All infants were removed from her, and all but one went on to perform. Chita has given birth at least eight times (1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 (twins), 1999 and 2001 (twins), and all but four of the infants went on to perform (Vermeer 2012a).

Chimpanzee infants benefit from a close relationship with their mothers in terms of feeding, warmth, protection, and the learning of new skills. Young chimpanzees are helpless without maternal support. In fact, for the first two months of life, infants are unable to support their own weight and depend entirely on their mothers' support (Bard 1995; Chimpanzee Species Survival Plan website). At Schwaben Park, the infants are raised by hand and are fed with 'Milumil' instant food from around the first day (see Appendix).

Extensive research has been carried out on the negative effects of hand-rearing on the psychology of the chimpanzees (e.g. Birkett and Newton-Fisher 2011; Martin 2004; Martin 2005).

If the purpose of tearing infants away from their mothers at Schwaben Park is indeed for the purpose of entertainment, then this is a cruel act – for both mother and infant – and one that reveals a serious lack of concern by the park management for the welfare of the animals in their ‘care’.



Picture 27: Each of the Animal Equality investigators documented an air of apathy amongst chimpanzees at Schwaben Park.

6. ABUSE IN ENTERTAINMENT

Captive chimpanzees are commonly exploited for television shows, films and advertising. The performing and entertaining animals are often dressed in human clothes and made to perform human-like behaviours. It has been stated that young 'entertainment' chimpanzees embody 'child-like characters' and are associated with adjectives such as 'cute' (Welt 2008).

Whilst it is becoming increasingly unpopular to house animals in travelling circuses (in fact, it is prohibited within several European countries, such as the Netherlands, Austria and Greece), the circus-style performances featuring wild animals are still popular in zoos around the world.

6.1 CIRCUS SHOWS

The Schwaben Park facebook and website feature images of chimpanzees wearing human clothing, sitting on a motorised bike, standing on chairs, 'answering' a telephone, and standing upright on a large plastic ball.

Aside from chimpanzees, domestic animals such as dogs, pigs, parrots and goats also perform for visitors at Schwaben Park.

Whilst it might be argued that domesticated species are more amenable to training, animals such as horses and ponies have been demonstrated to perform abnormal, stereotypic behaviours in a circus environment (ADI 2006).

The chimpanzee show at Schwaben Park is an anachronistic spectacle featuring chimpanzees performing taught behaviours in front of an audience whilst dressed in human clothing. They are collared and chained throughout, and the show takes place up to three times a day (depending on visitor attendance). It is not known how many performances each chimpanzee takes part in on a daily basis.

Whilst the training of chimpanzees at Schwaben Park takes place behind closed doors, it is widely acknowledged that wild animals remain unpredictable throughout their lives, and physical violence is often used by animal handlers to ensure compliance (Animal Equality 2011). If the animal fails to perform well, the trainer will use more 'persuasive' methods to 'improve' the animal's performance; after all, a non-performing animal is a liability (Zoocheck 2006). The repeated handling of wild animals often has a detrimental effect on their health and welfare (Save the Chimps website). The calculated abuse can turn a chimpanzee into a fearful individual who will pay attention and cooperate if only to avoid further abuse. Ironically, the chimpanzees' 'grin' (mouth wide open, teeth clamped together and exposed), as observed by investigators during the shows at Schwaben Park, is actually a grimace of fear and acknowledged to be as a gesture of submission (Goodall 1971).

Picture 28: Chimpanzees in the
archaic circus shows.



When animals become too dangerous for handlers to work with anymore, they are discarded. Chimpanzees are, at this point, often so humanised that they are likely to have problems socialising normally again with other chimpanzees. The fate of older, untrainable chimpanzees at Schwaben Park is not known, but they may not easily integrate into an established group of chimpanzees.

Thomas and Sylvia Hudelmaier train infant chimpanzees at Schwaben Park in their house for around a year, and thereafter they are trained at the park itself. Infants are submissive and so easily dominated and controlled. By nature, they are rambunctious and easily distracted - qualities that are diametric to what handlers need if they are to deliver specific behaviors on cue (Zoocheck 2006). As at September 2012, there was only one older chimpanzee performing in the shows at Schwaben Park, which is likely to be because chimpanzees become physically impossible to control by the age of eight (Save the Chimps website) and can react with aggression to training methods (Hudelmaier 2012).

Patti Ragan has stated: 'The methods used to train and discipline a chimpanzee this size are often abusive and harsh. But even if the trainer used the kindest and most positive manner of training, the show does nothing at all to educate the public about the true nature of chimpanzees... their normal behaviours... and the crisis facing them in the wild as they become more and more endangered. In fact, dressing them up and making them perform like little pseudo-humans is archaic and disrespectful. These types of shows ended decades ago' (see Appendix).

In the entertainment industry, public education and the needs of animal performers are of little relevance. At Schwaben Park, the animals are exposed to a raucous audience and loud music. There is no commentary explaining about the natural behaviours of chimpanzees and the animals are humiliated and portrayed as clowns. They are mere objects to be mocked and laughed at. They ride motorbikes, perform tricks and at the end of each show, they are taken back to their cells. Visitors gain no knowledge on the natural behaviours of chimpanzees, their lives in the wild, and the threats that these animals face from humans.

Circuses often claim that unnatural tricks are extensions of behaviours that animals would perform in the wild. However watching animal performances gives the public a distorted understanding of what the animals can do, and how it benefits them (Zoocheck 2006). Denying animals an environment that is natural to them, and forcing them to perform for our entertainment, conveys a negative message to the public and reinforces the notion that animals have no other purpose but to serve us.

6.2 EXPLOITATION AS PHOTOGRAPH PROPS, FOR ADVERTISING AND IN POPULAR MEDIA

Chimpanzees and other animals have long been exploited as clowns for human entertainment. For decades animal handlers have purchased, bred and trained chimpanzees for use in advertisements, television shows, and movies (Ross and Vreeman 2010). Today, chimpanzees are one of the most popular types of animals in show business (Chimps Inc. Website).

Picture 29-30: Chimpanzees are humiliated and portrayed as clowns, forced to wear human clothing, and perform highly unnatural stunts such as riding on motorbikes.





However, there is increasingly a move against the use of chimpanzees for entertainment. The Chimpanzee Species Survival Plan (SSP) recently issued a statement regarding the use of apes in advertising: 'The Chimpanzee SSP feels strongly that companies have alternatives to the use of performing chimpanzees in their television programs, movies and advertisements'.

Similarly, the Ape Alliance has spoken out to end the use of trained apes in the entertainment industry; including films, adverts and live shows.

The common occurrence of dressing chimpanzees in human clothing has made it somewhat a normality, however a 2011 study revealed that participants watching commercials with entertainment chimpanzees showed a decrease in understanding of the natural behaviour of wild chimpanzees - supporting the hypothesis that the use of entertainment chimpanzees in the media negatively distorts the public's perception (Scroepfer et al. 2011). The use of chimpanzees in popular media perpetuates the false belief that primates are suitable household companions. In the United States alone, there are an estimated 15,000 primates kept in households (Soulsbury et al. 2009).

Chimpanzees from Schwaben Park have been used in television shows, as photograph props, and for advertising. The removal of these animals from the park and into an unfamiliar environment, with unfamiliar humans and possibly other animals, is likely to cause a great deal of stress for individuals. For example, the animals must endure transport to film or photography sets, sometimes long distances.

On 24th October 2012, an employee at Schwaben Park revealed to investigators that chimpanzees had been transported to the Czech Republic so that they could feature in an advert for an insurance company.

Some examples of television shows that have featured chimpanzees from Schwaben Park are as follows:

- Thomas Hudelmaier featured with one chimpanzee and journalist and presenter, Ranga Jogishwa, in the German television show (Abendzeitung-Muenchen, 5 August 2009)
- Elstner Show (Monster and Critics, 6 August 2009)
- Radio Ton
- Stern TV
- Ronnys Popshow (RTL)

Schwaben Park chimpanzees have also been photographed with the following celebrities:

- Stefan Raab (entertainer)
- Gabi Köster (actress)
- Elisabeth Lanz (actress)
- Ben (songwriter)
- Yvonne Catterfeld (actress and television show host)

7. LEGAL SITUATION

The Council Directive 1999/22/EC relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos, was adopted in 1999 to provide a framework for Member State legislation, through the licensing and inspection of zoos (Endcap 2011).

There are an estimated 600 zoos in Germany (Endcap 2011) alone. In 1996, inadequate provisions were stipulated to improve the husbandry within these zoos (Säugetiergutachten) (BMT 2010). The national legislation protecting species in Germany is the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BnatSchG), which came into force on 1st January 1977 (the latest revision being 29th July 2009). This federal law states that the regularity of zoos inspections is at the discretion of the federal state government, yet there is no identified inspection criteria and procedures (Endcap 2011). Enforcement of the law is reliant therefore upon the competency of the State authorities.

There is no current EU legislation dealing specifically with circus animals. However, circuses should comply with the provisions of Council Regulation 338/97/EC and the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations.

The guidelines for the keeping, training and the use of animals in circuses were issued in connection with the German animal welfare law in 1990 . Today there are inadequate legal provisions regarding animal circuses, however guidelines prohibit the use of chimpanzees in travelling circuses. According to the BMELV, these guidelines are currently under revision (BMELV 2012).

Because Schwaben Park is defined as a zoo under BnatSchG, so the guidelines regarding circus animals do not apply, which enables Schwaben Park to continue performing chimpanzees in circus-style shows.

During the investigation, several infringements of current guidelines and legislation were identified - including inadequate enclosure sizes, a lack of possibilities for the animals to retreat from public view and aversive situations, and a lack of opportunities for animals to exercise and engage in activities which would be considered as normal. The animals' enclosures do not meet the inhabitants' needs, and visitors do not receive any meaningful education at the park regarding the natural behavior of the animals, and the threats they are facing in the wild.

It is the responsibility of the veterinary authorities to regularly inspect Schwaben Park to determine whether existing requirements are satisfactorily being met, yet it appears that the authorities are failing in their duties to do this and thus are failing in their duty to to implement existing regulations.

8. VISITOR BEHAVIOUR

The daily life of captive animals is influenced by physical and biological factors, such as social and spatial restrictions, the presence of other species, including humans, and the availability of appropriate stimuli (Carlstead 1996).

Zoo visitors have a huge effect on the daily lives of inhabitants (Animal Equality 2011). Whilst animals obviously react to the stimulation in different ways - depending on, for example, the species, the individual, prior human interactions, and the behaviour of visitors, large groups of unfamiliar visitors at the perimeter of an enclosure may not always be a pleasant experience for captive animals (Animal Equality 2011). Animals in zoos can perceive a visitor as an enemy, prey, of no consequence, or as a rival (Hediger 1965). Even the more subtle actions of visitors can have a significant effect on an animal and it has been stated that even the stare of animals by visitors is enough to trigger flight and defensive behaviours (Austermühle 1996).

Research has revealed that primates in particular find the presence of large active groups of visitors to be an extremely stressful experience (e.g. Mitchell et al. 1991) - which results in the animals performing stress-responses, increased aggression and heightened activity, and a

decrease in exploration and affiliate behaviours (Animal Equality 2011). If there are persistently recurring events which an animal perceives as aversive, and is unable to control or predict, this can result in chronic elevations of adrenal hormones and stress-induced aggression (Kant et al. 1987).

A 1996 study in Krefeld Zoo, Germany, highlights the behavioural changes of captive chimpanzees exposed to large groups of visitors - the higher the activity and number of visitors, the less the chimpanzees play (Austermühle 1996). The author of this particular study stated that, in the presence of visitors, increased social tensions and displacement behaviours were observed, and that visitors place a heavy strain on group structure (Austermühle 1996).

8.1 INDIRECT CONTACT

At Schwaben Park, investigators observed visitors indirectly interacting with the captive animals, often in a negative way. For example, animals were pelted with branches and substrate by visitors. When captive animals are displayed to the public, the mocking and teasing of the animals may well serve as a barrier to feeling empathy.

Some of the behaviours of visitors observed at Schwaben Park include:

- The throwing of objects at animals, including a lit cigarette
- The mocking of animals. For example, chimpanzees were called “swine”, “asshole”, “bummer” and “dumbass” by visitors
- The throwing of debris such as crisp packets, empty food cartons and drink cartons into enclosures. Dr. Andrew Knight stated: ‘Chimpanzees were filmed handling and chewing an apple juice packet and yoghurt container, raising the possibility of foreign body ingestion and potentially severe gastrointestinal consequences’ (see Appendix)
- The kicking of, and banging fists against, plexiglass panels

There was also an absence of safety barriers at the park, which would not only protect the health of visitors, employees and the animals, but also prevent visitors upsetting and agitating animals.

On 21st May 2012, a visitor was documented throwing a lit cigarette into an enclosure, which a chimpanzee proceeded to smoke. There were no employees nearby to prevent this kind of behaviour this from occurring.

Patti Ragan stated: 'The close access to the chimpanzees outside their exhibit cage is very alarming. People throwing in food to the chimps are also throwing in their germs from their hands... transmitting all kinds of bacteria and possible diseases. And throwing the cigarette in was awful!' (see Appendix).

Dr. Lopresti-Goodman stated: 'Humans in the video are recorded banging on and yelling at the window of an infant chimpanzees' enclosure, and are even seen throwing objects at an adult chimpanzee inside of his/her outdoor enclosure. These are behaviors that chimpanzees perceive as a provocation and a threat.

Picture 31: A chimpanzee chewing on debris, likely to have been thrown in by a visitor.



While some chimpanzees display aggression and frustration in response to these unsympathetic and callous humans, others are simply seen sitting quietly. This suggests learned helplessness, where the chimpanzee has learned to accept this abusive behavior and their adverse situations as a result of being unable to escape, change, or avoid the stressful situation' (see Appendix).

8.2 DIRECT CONTACT

Direct contact between animals and zoo visitors can not only be stressful and harmful for animals, it can also present the risk of injury and the transmission of zoonotic diseases.

At Schwaben Park, investigators observed visitors and employees directly interacting with the captive animals, often in a negative way. For example:

- The handing of objects, such as branches, to chimpanzees
- Feeding, grabbing, pulling, and attempting to catch infant goats and other domestic animals
- The handling of chimpanzees and other animals using leashes and chains in the performances

According to professor of psychology and great ape expert, Anne Russon, even wild animals born in captivity, can pose a serious danger to humans (Russon 1992). George Carden, from the George Carden International Circus has also acknowledged that circus animals are 'well trained but they will never be tame' (Zoocheck 2006). There are several factors that pose risks to human safety – for example, an animal's size, strength, physique and natural weapons of defence and offence.

Additionally, disturbed, neurotic animals in pain and distress tend to be more aggressive both to their social partners, and to other species (Kiley-Worthington 1990).

The direct interactions between visitors and the domestic animals in the petting area of Schwaben Park should also be of concern. Feeding captive animals can lead to the animals performing begging behaviors - which can become stereotypic - and again there is a risk of injury to both animals and visitors. Investigators observed young children in close contact with animals who were larger than them within this area.

No hand hygiene facilities were also observed in, or near to, the petting area. Nor a running water supply. Contact with animals inherently poses risk of zoonotic pathogen exposure (Weese et al. 2007). Since chimpanzees have a close taxonomic relationship to humans, they are susceptible to human diseases. Sub-clinical infectious disease and carrier animals can occur in chimpanzee groups that can be transmitted to both employees and visitors. Investigators observed chimpanzees urinating in the direction of the visitors whilst they clung to the enclosure mesh, and the urine splashed visitors. Such body fluids can act as a transport medium to spread zoonotic disease. Close and unprotected contact between performing apes, their handlers, and audiences can also threaten all with viral, bacterial, and parasite infection. For example, Herpes simian B virus can be transmitted to humans through bites and scratches.

CONCLUSION

THE 'CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION FALLACY'

In the 19th Century, zoos represented imperialism and human mastery over animals (Hochadel 2005). They exhibited living trophies of imperial conquest (Marlno et al. 2009), and sovereigns housed large collections of animals as symbols of their power (Jamieson 2006).

The Zoological Society of London was the first zoo of the modern type, and it opened doors to the public for the purpose of human recreation. Heightened awareness of animal rights during the 1970s resulted in the public challenging the concept of captive wild animal facilities such as zoos and marine parks (Animal Equality 2011).

The captive animal industry responded by branding themselves as centers for the conservation of endangered species and public education (Animal Equality 2011). However, even today the true concept of zoos remains the same.

In the words of Rob Laidlaw, Founder and Executive Director of Zoocheck Canada: 'Zoos tried to repackage themselves as institutions which are devoted to the protection and conversation of the animal kingdom, as well as to public education and wellbeing of animals. However, most zoos do not do justice to their own propaganda and vast numbers of zoo animals still suffer from a life in misery and deprivation' (Laidlaw 2000).

Whilst some modern zoos have replaced older cages with modern exhibits, the space provided to the animals remains limited. The strategic layout of zoos leaves visitors with little idea of the reality for incarcerated animals. Clever architecture tricks visitors into believing that animals are afforded much more space and complexity than they actually are (Animal Equality 2011).

Signage in zoos is often poor, offering little useful information and it has been shown to be viewed briefly and in rapid succession (Ludwig 1981). The argument that zoos contribute to informing the public about the threats facing animals in the wild, and the natural behavior of these animals, is obsolete. Visits to the zoo do not result in an observable change of knowledge and attitude (Balmford et al. 2007). A 1999 study revealed that recreation, rather than education, is the main reason for visits to the zoo and concluded that visitors rather want to 'watch and enjoy' animals, rather than to understand them (Turley 1999).

If zoos teach us anything at all, they teach us a sad and dangerous lesson - that humans have the right to enslave

other animals. They present a false image of the inhabitants and ecological systems, by exhibiting mainly charismatic large mammals, as these animals have a wide-spread appeal amongst the public (Hancocks 1995).

Animals in zoos, like humans in prisons, develop mental problems. So what useful lesson does the observation of animals carrying out disturbed and often bizarre behaviours teach visitors? Surely only how animals should not behave, and how they should not be living (Animal Equality 2011).

A 2011 study highlighted that, in Germany, out of 25 zoos, six hosted animal performances. The majority of which presented animals displaying unnatural behaviour (Endcap 2011). The captive-bred, hand-reared chimpanzees at Schwaben Park are unable to perform behaviours that would be taught to them by experienced group members in the wild - for example, communication skills, tool-making and foraging (Morris and Parker 2010). These animals, who behave in a humanised way provide little meaningful education for visitors. Zoos reveal a distorted image of nature, and of animal behavior. Even a rigorous advocate of zoos, Emily Hahn, has admitted that 'a wild animal in captivity is forced to alter his or her nature and stop being the creature who we want to see' (Hahn 1967).

Zoos are not educational institutions, nor 'Noah's Arks', they are entertainment facilities for the masses (Goldner 2012).

Chimpanzees at Schwaben Park are presented in a human-like way in performances and their needs and interests are ignored. Animal performances, which are often promoted as a means of showing how intelligent animals are, rarely inform the spectator about animal emotions, and how animals communicate their emotions.

IMPROVED CONDITIONS ARE NOT A SOLUTION

In the wild, chimpanzees are stimulated by complexity in a constantly changing environment. For example, they would spend, on average, half of their day feeding, and much time moving from one food source to the next (Chimpanzee Species Survival Plan website). The caged chimpanzees (and other animals) at Schwaben Park receive little stimulation in their lives - their environment is relatively static, dull, and controlled by the park Management.

Environmental enrichment, which is supposed to keep captive animals as close as possible to their natural environments (Young, 2003), has been provided at Schwaben Park, however it should be a dynamic process requiring species-specific modification. The toys, hammocks, and tree imitations at Schwaben Park are pitiful, and can not replace a life in the wild. Abnormal, repetitive and stereotypic behaviors still manifest even where enrichment is provided. In fact, it has been stated that there is not one example of enrichment which has totally eliminated stereotypical behaviour (Mason and Rushen 2006).

As Christophe Boesch, Director of the Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology stated: 'There are good and there are bad prisons, they remain prisons, though. In Frankfurt and Leipzig there are luxurious zoos, though captivity for great apes remains demeaning. Therefore it is wrong, that we leave this problem unsolved by allowing reproduction. Contraception is the only right thing here' (Nakott 2012).

All sentient animals, no matter whether human or non-human, have one thing in common: they are able to feel emotions such as joy, pain, happiness and fear. These similarities mean they have the same interests - including the avoidance of pain and suffering. All animals exist for their own sake, they have evolved and adapted to thrive in their own habitat, not in artificial environments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Most of the individuals who are born and imprisoned at Schwaben Park do not have the skills necessary for them to survive in the wild, including how to recognise and prevent dangers, and search for food. This means a life in the wild would, in all probability, not be feasible for these individuals.

Animal Equality therefore recommends that the animals at Schwaben Park be transferred to a non-commercial, non-breeding sanctuary, so that they can live out the rest of their lives away from the constant gaze of visitors, and exploitation in degrading circus-style shows. The sanctuary should be a place where the animals' own interests are placed of greatest importance. If such a place does not exist, then one should be constructed to rehome these animals.

The animal shows at Schwaben Park, and the breeding of animals, should immediately cease at Schwaben Park. If the animals cannot be separated, then birth control should be used.



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: EXPERT STATEMENTS

Dr. Balcombe, Jonathan - Department Chair, Animal Studies, Humane Society University, United States

“I am an ethologist with Bachelors and Masters degrees in biology, and a Doctorate in animal behavior from the University of Tennessee (1991). I am the author of three books on animal sentience, behavior and emotions, and over 45 peer reviewed journal papers and book chapters. The opinions expressed in this letter are entirely my own and are based on my best efforts to interpret the information provided to me.

„The behavior of chimps in their cages, which includes rocking and yawning stereotypies, coughing, and aggression, indicates that they are bored and in some cases possibly depressed. The aggression directed towards the cameraperson also suggests that these animals have reason to hate humans. These chimps are exposed to abuse by the public, such as throwing objects at them, including cigarettes which some of the chimps then smoke. All the performing chimps wear tight-fitting collars with leashes. There is no joy shown by either the chimps or the humans. Though I did see one photo of an adult cradling a youngster, it appears that most of the infants are kept separate from their mothers. This is as big a social and emotional deficit for chimps as it is for women. All of the chimpanzees appear unhappy, or worse.

The tiger is obese, and of course, grossly confined for a large predator whose natural home range is hundreds of square kilometers.

As a general comment, chimpanzee entertainment shows like this are an anachronism, and they have no place in modern, civilized society. What we now know of these socially sophisticated, highly intelligent great apes makes them utterly inappropriate for spectacles in which they perform silly stunts for human audiences. Chimps are individuals with biographies. We do them, and ultimately ourselves, no service by enslaving them for our amusement. That’s reason enough to have this operation closed down.”

Prof. Bekoff, Marc - Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder, United States

"The powerful footage obtained by Animal Equality revealing chained chimpanzees in human costumes performing in circus shows, motherless chimp babies staring up from the ground of tiny, barren concrete cages, and the ritual pacing of tigers sadly only reveals a snapshot of the animal abuse and suffering at Schwaben Park.

It is clear that there is a dark and abusive relationship between animals and their 'caregivers' at the facility. Workers tear chimpanzee infants from their mothers they are only one day old so that they can be trained for the circus shows. Animals trained to perform unnatural and demeaning tricks learn to obey humans through punishment, domination and isolation. The fate of animals deemed too old and dangerous to participate in the shows is unknown, but it is unlikely these individuals would adapt easily back into established chimpanzee groups.

Following this expose, Schwaben Park should be viewed not as an amusement park, but a prison for hundreds of exploited, innocent beings. In this day and age, we should reject facilities such as Schwaben Park. Animals are not objects of entertainment and I urge the public to boycott this dismal facility."

Dr. Capaldo, Theodora - Ed.D. Licensed psychologist, President New England Anti-Vivisection Society and 'Project R & R: Release and Restitution for Chimpanzees in U.S. Laboratories', United States

"Infants cannot thrive psychologically or physically without a mother or mother substitute, so essential is that bond to their well being. We know that raising infant chimpanzees as surrogate humans to prepare them to act like humans for our „entertainment“ or even our research use in areas like sign language acquisition, leaves these chimpanzees with identity confusions so profound that they fail to know with certainty who they are at their core.

When raised as a human, a chimpanzee identifies with being human - so formative is that „mother“ or mother substitute bond. We imposed, or if you will, imprinted“ a human „mother“ and, therefore, a human identity on that chimpanzee child. In the case of future entertainment use, we demanded they identify as human. Then, inevitably comes that fatal day when they can no longer be part of the human world because of their strength and the irrefutable fact that, even in all their confusion, they are after all chimpanzee - in body, will, reason, strength and emotional expression.

In that moment, the cross-fostered chimpanzee is condemned to live on the edges of two worlds – one human, one chimpanzee - neither of which he or she can be fully a part.

We have damaged, perverted his/her chimpanzeeness with a set of human facial expressions, gestures, behaviors and needs that will not serve that chimpanzee in a chimpanzee world of others who were raised as chimps and know who they are in every gene. Chimpanzees raised by and in a chimpanzee world know themselves to be a part of the ancient physical, social and psychological culture of chimpanzees with all of its rules and realities.

We rob chimpanzees of their world for our pleasure and needs and then reject them, as we must, as full participants in our human world. I can think of no greater betrayal than this. To welcome someone as family, as a member of our community, and then one day unceremoniously -- even if by necessity -- reject them. We look at them and, with the power we hold over them, we close the doors on them to the world they once knew and believed was theirs. In fact, we lock and chain those doors to make certain they cannot and will not ever enter our world again. In the world of entertainment, this tragic trajectory, condemns them to a life as an entertainer for as long as their will can be controlled."

Dr. Deschner, Tobias - Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, Germany

"The presentation of chimpanzees in Schwaben Park is completely unacceptable.

The infants have to be separated from their mothers in order to be drilled for the shows (and for the TV appearances that they are forced to do). This early separation from the mother leads to huge problems for the animals. So that much so that, thereafter, they are unable to behave naturally, and form normal social relationships with other chimpanzees. These animals are taken away from conspecifics to entertain humans and as a result suffer psychological disorders.

Furthermore, a completely inaccurate image of chimpanzees is portrayed by the circus shows, and their needs are not respected at all. The shows also do not inform visitors about the threats facing the animals in their natural habitat.

The housing of chimpanzees in Schwaben Park is definitively not appropriate for the species and the management of the park do not consider their species-specific requirements. For this reason I consider it a shame that such an institution is allowed to exhibit these animals."

Dr. Docherty, Lorraine - Chimpanzee rescue and rehabilitation specialist, UK

"The enclosures at Schwaben Park have few if any areas outside where the chimpanzees can get away from public view. The chimpanzees' mental health appears to be compromised and this manifests itself in a range of abnormal behaviours as seen in your video clips such as repetitive stereotypical behaviours, raspberry vocalisations and excessive displaying. These behaviours are indicators of psychological suffering and of other disorders associated with inability to have control of environmental impacts, which is typical for zoo-living chimpanzees. I am also shocked and disappointed that Schwaben Park are allowed to conduct their distasteful chimpanzee shows given the stress and trauma that it puts these animals under."

Dr. Knight, Andrew - BSc (Vet Biol), BVMS, CertAW, DipECAWBM (WSEL), PhD, MRCVS, FOCAC, European Veterinary Specialist in Welfare Science and Fellow of Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, UK

“Chimpanzees are truly remarkable creatures. As our closest living relatives they possess advanced emotional, psychological, and social characteristics. However, these same characteristics markedly increase their ability to suffer when born into unnatural captive environments or captured from the wild, and then subjected to confinement, social disruption, and coercive participation in circus tricks.

The decreasing wild populations of these grievously endangered creatures is also one of the greatest tragedies within the unfolding disaster of modern species extinctions. Clearly, we must do all we can to increase social awareness of the uniqueness and irreplaceability chimpanzees.

Instead, in Schwaben Park, chimpanzees perform a variety of demeaning circus tricks, such as balancing on giant balls, riding tricycles and quad bikes, pretending to use shaving razors and telephones, and wearing human clothes including, in one case, a ridiculous hat, whilst being made to dance.

Unsurprisingly, a recent study published in a leading scientific journal (Schroepfer et al. 2011) has shown that people watching chimpanzees perform in human clothing become less likely to donate to chimpanzee conservation. If chimpanzees are available and permitted to be used in such activities, perhaps they are not endangered after all, people may think. Hence, the activities of Schwaben Park are not only demeaning to and devaluing of chimpanzees, but also harmful to the cause of chimpanzee conservation.

Additionally, experts believe that the advanced psychological and social characteristics of chimpanzees render it impossible in practical terms to provide environments outside of large sanctuaries that satisfactorily meet their minimum psychological and behavioural requirements, which include family preservation, ample opportunities for climbing, exploring, problem solving, and playing, and considerable space (Balls 1995, DeGrazia 1996, Smith & Boyd 2002).

The chimpanzees at Schwaben Park are confined within small internal enclosures, and larger external enclosures. However even the latter provided limited opportunities to climb, and are far too small. Unsurprisingly, therefore, chimpanzees in these cages were filmed exhibiting profoundly depressed postures, and stereotypical behaviours. These are repetitive, apparently purposeless behaviours, believed to indicate psychological distress which is both profound and chronic.

At Schwaben Park chimpanzees were observed swaying from side to side, head-rocking, bar-licking, and pacing the borders of their enclosures.

Greatly concerning was the very high number of baby chimpanzees supposedly rejected by their mothers, and hand-reared. Maternal-infant bonds are very strong in chimpanzees, and maternal rejection is a rare phenomenon. However, only hand-reared chimpanzees are most suitable for training to participate in the sort of circus tricks audiences pay to see at Schwaben Park. Involuntary removal of baby chimps from mothers is likely to result in extreme stress to both mother and infant.

It was disturbing to see the small enclosure infant chimpanzees were confined in. The large plexiglas window offered no opportunity to hide from the public, who were sometimes filmed banging on the window, which could only be expected to increase the stress experienced by these infants.

Although the stressful interactions with humans are of a different nature, the confinement of chimpanzees within research laboratories has much in common with the conditions witnessed at Schwaben Park. Recent studies have established beyond any reasonable doubt that the effects of laboratory confinement and procedures, especially long term, can be severe. Many captive great apes, including chimpanzees recently retired from US laboratories (Bradshaw et al. 2008), show gross behavioural abnormalities, such as stereotypies, self-mutilation or other self-injurious behaviour, inappropriate aggression, fear, or withdrawal (Brüne et al. 2006, Bourgeois et al. 2007).

It is increasingly acknowledged that such abnormal behaviours resemble symptoms associated with human psychiatric disorders such as depression, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder, and that pharmacological treatment modalities similar to those applied to human patients may be appropriate, and indeed morally compelled, for severely disturbed animal patients (Brüne et al. 2006, Bourgeois et al. 2007). Long-term therapeutic combination with positive reinforcement training, environmental enrichment, and social and environmental modification may be necessary in severe cases (Bourgeois et al. 2007).

The medical condition of some of the chimpanzees at Schwaben Park was also a concern. One was filmed repeatedly and almost violently coughing, in close contact with other chimpanzees. These chimpanzees are also in close contact with human visitors, from who they may contract respiratory illnesses. Another chimpanzee had a swollen and ulcerated ear flap, suggesting the possibility of cancer, although additional tests would be required to achieve a diagnosis. Numerous smaller wounds or ulcers were observed on limb extremities and faces. The causes are unknown, but may include fighting or other traumatic events.

The interaction with park visitors was also potentially harmful to the chimpanzees in other ways. Chimpanzees were filmed handling and chewing an apple juice packet and yoghurt container, raising the possibility of foreign body ingestion and potentially severe gastrointestinal consequences. One was even seen smoking a cigarette, apparently mimicking human behaviour. All of these were probably discarded by visitors – indeed, one was filmed throwing a cigarette into an enclosure. Visitor supervision was clearly inadequate to safeguard the welfare of the chimpanzees.

Hair loss was also visible on several chimpanzees, but it was unclear whether this was from contact with surfaces, skin parasites, age-related, or due to other causes.

Other animals The siberian tiger compound appeared similarly barren and space-limited, given the enormous territories these animals would naturally explore in the wild.

An alpaca was witnessed bar-chewing, and a goat observed chewing trash. These behaviours may reflect hunger, or stress. I understand that around 50 goats, sheep and alpaca are exhibited with no access to food or pasture during opening hours. Instead visitors can pay to feed the animals. The crowd of animal pressing up to the bars revealed a disturbing level of hunger. Also concerning was footage of a visitor trying to catch a goat kid, doubtless causing more stress, and again revealing inadequate visitor supervision.

I also observed one alpaca that may have had overgrown hooves.

Conclusions Schwaben Park is clearly a commercial enterprise exploiting chimpanzees and other animals for profit. The circus tricks they coerce their chimpanzees to participate in are highly demeaning, and communicate the wrong values about respecting and valuing these amazing, endangered creatures. They are undoubtedly harmful to the cause of chimpanzee conservation.

The Schwaben Park enclosures are relatively small and barren when compared to the wild habitats of the chimpanzees, tigers, goats, sheep and alpacas confined there, and several signs of stress, including disturbing stereotypical behaviours, were witnessed, along with some signs of poor health and nutrition. This was exacerbated by inadequate supervision of visitors, who were filmed throwing a cigarette into an enclosure, followed by a chimpanzee smoking, with another chewing on discarded plastic trash.

In short, Schwaben Park is clearly an anachronism within modern Europe. It is an affront to near universally-accepted values supporting animal welfare and the conservation of endangered species, and should be closed down.”

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Dr. Lopresti-Goodman, Stacy - Assistant Professor of Psychology, Marymount University, United States

"My name is Dr. Stacy Lopresti-Goodman and I am an assistant professor of psychology at Marymount University, in Arlington, VA, USA. My research focuses on abnormal behavior and symptoms of psychological distress and psychopathology in chimpanzees who have been rescued from the exotic pet trade, entertainment industry, and biomedical research. My research has been presented at scientific conferences around the world. I have also have served as an expert consultant to two chimpanzee sanctuaries.

After reviewing video footage and photographs taken at Schwaben Park by Animal Equality Germany, it is evident that many of the chimpanzees at Schwaben Park display symptoms of psychological distress and engage in a variety of abnormal, stress induced behaviors, which are detailed below. This is not surprising given recent observational research at zoos revealed that 100% of the chimpanzees living there engage in at least one abnormal behavior [1]. Given the many similarities in brain structures that are affected by distress in humans and chimpanzees (e.g. the hippocampus, the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis), and psychosocial and behavioral similarities between the two, many chimpanzees living in captivity display symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), complex post-traumatic stress disorder (CPTSD), and depression similar to that seen in humans [2-7]. These symptoms are brought about by maternal separation and deprivation, inadequate environmental conditions that lack cognitive enrichment, the confusing behaviors chimpanzees are forced to perform (e.g. wearing clothing and riding a motor bike), and the constant presence of and interaction with humans [8, 9].

During the chimpanzee performance at Schwaben Park recorded by Animal Equality, as well as in photographs taken in the chimpanzees' outdoor enclosure, it appears that many of the chimpanzees have hair loss on their faces, heads, chests, and the back of their shoulders. An increase in the stress hormone cortisol can result in alopecia universalis, or hair loss on parts of, or even the entire surface of, the body. This has been seen in other captive living chimpanzees, such as in Guru, a now completely hairless chimpanzee living in the Mysore Zoo in southern India. The hair loss may also be the result of stress induced self-directed behaviors, such as the chimpanzees stereotypically plucking their hair from their body [1, 10, 11]. This self-depilation is similar to trichotillomania in humans, and is a form of obsessive compulsive disorders.

Another juvenile chimpanzee captured on video and in photographs was observed self-clasping while sitting in a depressed, hunched posture on top of a small climbing structure. He/she also has what appears to be gouges all over his/her head. This is possibly the result of self-injurious behaviors. Chimpanzees, like humans

who meet the criteria for CPTSD, which is brought about by prolonged and repetitive trauma such as being held captive as opposed to singular traumatic events, are more likely to engage in self-injurious behaviors as a way to physically relieve psychological distress [12-16]. It is possible that the chimpanzees at Schwaben Park are experiencing symptoms of CPTSD and this is what is resulting in their self-injurious behaviors. There are also photographs of other juvenile and adult chimpanzees self-clasping while sitting in a depressed hunched posture, also indicating distress.

In the video three different chimpanzees in their enclosure sat and rocked and bobbed their heads repetitively. Multiple other chimpanzees were recorded making raspberry noises with their mouths. All of these behaviors are abnormal behaviors that only occur in captive-living chimpanzees and may indicate psychological distress or boredom [1, 11, 17]. Typically chimpanzees engage in these kinds of behavior as a way to self-soothe if upset, or to self-stimulate in the absence of enrichment [1, 2, 17-22]. In the wild chimpanzees live in social groups of up to 150 individuals and roam areas as large as 250 square miles. In captivity, they are deprived of these rich social interactions and of ample space. By looking at the small, barren cages the chimpanzees are forced to live in, which lack natural foliage, opportunities for foraging, and places for the chimpanzees to hide from constant onlookers, it is apparent that they are not provided with appropriate living conditions and this could be resulting in the documented abnormal behaviors.

The chimpanzees are also made visibly upset by the presence of humans, as evidenced by their running towards humans, spitting and throwing objects in their direction. Humans in the video are recorded banging on and yelling at the window of an infant chimpanzees' enclosure, and are even seen throwing objects at an adult chimpanzee inside of his/her outdoor enclosure. These are behaviors that chimpanzees perceive as a provocation and a threat. While some chimpanzees display aggression and frustration in response to these unsympathetic and callous humans, others are simply seen sitting quietly. This suggests learned helplessness, where the chimpanzee has learned to accept this abusive behavior and their adverse situations as a result of being unable to escape, change, or avoid the stressful situation [23]. An adult human male was even documented throwing a lit cigarette at a chimpanzee, which the chimpanzee proceeded to smoke and cough in response to. This is evidence of neglect on the caregivers' part.

In addition to not having places to hide or avoid noisy onlookers in their outdoor enclosures, the chimpanzees are forced to endure a loud, squeaky tramcar that passes by their enclosure multiple times a day. In response to this, you see one chimpanzee who becomes physically and emotionally distressed evidenced by piloerection (hair

standing on end), him/her standing on their hind legs, rocking back and forth, clapping their hands, making raspberry noises, and hitting the fence. Previous research has documented that abnormal and stereotypical behavior such as rocking and swaying increases as the amount of environmental noise increases [24]. Having to endure such noisy conditions on a daily basis will result in prolonged periods of elevated stress hormones which will have a detrimental effect on their physical health in addition to their psychological health.

Another chimpanzee was documented as repetitively spitting on the bars of their enclosure and then reingesting their spit. This is another one of the most common abnormal behaviors observed in captive living chimpanzees and might be indicative of an obsessive compulsion, may be a way for the chimpanzee to alleviate boredom, or might be the result of the lack of an adequate diet [1, 11, 18, 25].

It was reported to me that approximately 30 of the 44 chimpanzees currently living in Schwaben Park have been hand-reared by humans, 18 of whom were born at the park and were reportedly either rejected by their mothers, or the mothers were not in sufficient health to raise them. While this number seems very high, much higher than any other rate of mother-infant rejection I have ever encountered, research shows that chimpanzees and other primates who have been human reared in captivity often lack many species specific behaviors, such as normal mothering behaviors [26-30]. Research also shows that chimpanzees who are stressed are more likely to reject their infants [31].

Given the majority of the chimpanzees at Schwaben Park are human reared and under constant stress as a result of human presence and being forced to perform unnatural behaviors for humans' amusement, it would be no surprise if some of the chimpanzee mothers at Schwaben Park have rejected their infants.

Schwaben Park also claims that many of the mothers were not capable of raising their infants given insufficient health. If this is the case, it is most likely the result of the inadequate and stressful environment they find themselves living in. By no means should Schwaben Park be allowed to continue breeding chimpanzees. If the chimpanzees are not retired to an accredited sanctuary, then as is done at many chimpanzee sanctuaries who provide lifelong care to abused and neglected chimpanzees, the female chimpanzees should be put on some form of birth control, like Depo-Provera, and the male chimpanzees should be vasectomized to prevent future chimpanzees from being brought into the world only to be rejected by their mothers and forced to perform unnatural behaviors that induce stress."

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McKay Barry, Kent - Canadian Representative, Born Free Foundation, United States

“Upon reviewing video provided by Animal Equality, purported to show exhibits at Schwaben Park, Germany, I would like to make the following observations, based on more than four decades of work, as a naturalist, on wild animal welfare issues. I am the Canadian Representative and Senior Programme Associate of Born Free USA, as well as a director of Animal Alliance of Canada Environment Voters, and a director of Zoocheck-Canada, and a member of various natural history and zoology organizations, including the Ontario Field Ornithologists, the Toronto Ornithological Club and the Wilson Ornithological Society. I am the author of numerous columns, articles and books dealing with wildlife, particularly birds, and have examined captive animal facilities in North, Central and South America, the West Indies, Europe, Africa and Asia, and have had extensive hands-on experience with the rehabilitation of native Canadian birds and other wildlife species. I am sorry to see that such exhibits as the parrot show held at Schwaben Park, where parrots and cockatoos and other bird species, including a chicken, are made to perform silly tricks in a Bavarian-themed stage show that in no way addresses what are often claimed by the international zoo community to be the two most important and socially valid rationales for keeping in captivity.

Any claims of the show being ‘educational’ cannot be true. Beyond, at most, perhaps implying that birds are capable of being trained. On the contrary, the shows rob the animals involved of the dignity inherent to them, and evident as they occur naturally in the wild. It implies that they function for the amusement of onlookers, and to attract paying customers. I am especially concerned that small children will be misled and confused as to the nature of these birds, by suggesting that they are part of some sort of human community and by anthropomorphizing them.

There is no hint as to their natural circumstances; on the contrary, species from various habitats and ecozones are mixed together in a trite and very contrived setting entirely to amuse. There is another concern, and that is that they reinforce the concept of these birds making ideal and willing “pets”. In fact, they are very poorly suited to be companion animals, and the species featured (cockatoos, macaws and other larger parrots) are notoriously given to self-mutilation as a function of the stress imposed upon them by typical pet-keeping circumstances. This silly show should not continue.

I was also concerned about the condition of a domestic goat seen on the video provided. I am familiar, as a result of my investigations, with the manner in which petting zoos too often allow such animals to go hungry, or to be badly nourished by inadequate food, so that they will approach visitors for food purchased to the profit of the facility. The goat was clearly and alarmingly emaciated; a cruel abuse.

Finally, the tiger exhibited classic stereotypic pacing within his cage, again and again tracing the exact same path along the side of the cage's interior. This indicates stress, and animal behaviour experts are essentially united in the opinion that such behavior indicates serious stress. I am further concerned that the caging poses a risk, most particularly to young children by virtue of inadequate barrier protection.

And no less than the parrots, the maintenance of a tiger in a cage contributes only negatively to either the serious cause of tiger conservation or education."

Dr. Martindale, Victoria - MBMS and Primatologist, UK

"Many people have seen chimpanzees in the zoo or dressed up performing tricks, such as riding bicycles and having tea parties. It can be an amusing form of entertainment and makes our kids laugh. It all seems a bit of fun, for us humans that is. Few people realize that behind the scenes these attractions are hugely exploitative. To force any wild animal to perform such unnatural behaviors and actions involves training, usually of the punitive form, more often than not by food and water deprivation at a minimum. On many occasions more forceful training methods are employed. In this example at Schwaben Park, we are talking about animals that are capable of displaying remarkable levels of intelligence, and depth of emotions and communication. In fact, the chimpanzees are considered the most intelligent of all animals which is no surprise given they are the closest extant species to man and share 98% of our DNA.

For a western zoo in the 21st century like Schwaben Park, therefore, to be hand rearing juvenile chimpanzees specifically to force them to wear clothes, perform unnatural and demeaning tricks and provide all kinds of entertainment is not only heart breaking but a grossly unethical form of abuse. Any such show which exploits living animals in this way is a form of violation and the animals suffer.

There is no getting away from the truth that abuse of these animals in this way is unnecessary and unacceptable and serves no purpose other than to raise profits while their welfare is being severely compromised. Who really thinks it is normal for a chimpanzee to wear human clothes, ride a bicycle, wear silly hats or play games? For this is the kind of distorted misinformation such attractions are teaching children. These tricks have nothing to do with how these highly intelligent apes behave and live in the wild.

Please take a positive step and ban all forms of animal exploitation and abuse like this."

Ragan, Patti - Founding Director, Center for Great Apes, Florida, United States

"I viewed the video by Animal Equality and saw many things that we deal with everyday. Stereotypical behaviors such as rocking, scooting, swaying, making odd noises, and over-grooming resulting in loss of hair are frequently present in chimpanzees who have not had the benefit of being raised for their first five or six years by their own chimp mothers. I recommend that Schwaben Park stop their breeding program, and stop pulling infants from their mothers. Those coming to our sanctuary from entertainment (circuses, movies, advertisements).... as well as those who were once kept as private 'pets' and raised as humans, usually develop some form of these abnormal behaviours.

I would hope that the young chimpanzee with the cough was under medical treatment with the veterinarian... they do catch colds from time to time and this could have been the result of a cold. But, it could also have been something much more severe.f

The most disturbing things I noticed in the video were the circus-like show and the close proximity to the visitors. I recommend that Schwaben Park show be stopped immediately. To train these great apes to do these very unnatural behaviours is an issue in itself. The methods used to train and discipline a chimpanzee this size are often abusive and harsh. But even if the trainer used the kindest and most positive manner of training, the show does nothing at all to educate the public about the true nature of chimpanzees... their normal behaviours... and the crisis facing them in the wild as they become more and more endangered. In fact, dressing them up and making them perform like little pseudo-humans is archaic and disrespectful. These types of shows ended decades ago. The close access to the chimpanzees outside their exhibit cage is very alarming. People throwing in food to the chimps are also throwing in their germs from their hands... transmitting all kinds of bacteria and possible diseases. And throwing in the cigarette in was awful!"

Prof. Sorenson, John - Department of Sociology, Brock University, Canada

"I have reviewed the photographic and video evidence from Animal Equality's investigation of captive chimpanzees at Schwaben Park in Germany. It is an extremely sad comment on human depravity that such medieval conditions should continue to exist in one of the most advanced countries in Europe. The daily show, in which the chimpanzees are required to dress in costume and perform various human activities, such as riding a toy car, answering the telephone and doing a slappy dance, merely provides audiences with an opportunity to laugh at these animals and removes their natural dignity. When not performing, the chimpanzees are kept in squalid conditions with few enrichments to hold the interest of these intelligent animals. Some are housed in close proximity to a small noisy train that transports visitors through the park. As a result of these conditions, the animals are extremely stressed, reduced to apathy and listlessness, huddled or engaged in repetitive rocking motions indicative of psychological breakdown. Several of the animals have open wounds and are suffering hair loss while others appear to have respiratory problems. Infants are separated from their mothers and kept on display with no opportunity to evade the constant gaze of visitors.

Those visitors, apparently frustrated when the chimpanzees do not provide them with constant amusement, can be seen throwing objects at the animals and one man tosses a lit cigarette for a chimpanzee to smoke. A large and growing body of work in cognitive ethology demonstrates the mental complexity of chimpanzees and it is clear that conditions such as these are agonizing to them. Of course it is not merely their biological closeness to ourselves that should engage our ethical concern: alpacas, goats and a pair of tigers are also kept on display at the park for public amusement and it appears that these animals are also under stress. There can be no argument that any vital human purpose is served by keeping these animals on display and, indeed, such institutions only encourage the worst aspects of our own character."

APPENDIX B: TELEPHONE CONVERSATION (RECORDED): Thomas Hudelmaier, 13 November 2012

I (Investigator): Do you have experience with the comparison of hand-reared infants and infants raised by their mother?

TH: (Thomas Hudelmaier): We have experience with chimpanzees. The hand-reared chimpanzees who do not get their mother's milk become larger and grow faster as those raised by their mothers.

I: When do you start to hand-rear the infants (chimpanzees)?

TH: From day one. Those who have to be hand-reared.

I: So, you already did hand-rear chimpanzees from day one?

TH: yes, sure.

I: And what kind of alternate for mothermilk do you use?

TH: Milumil. Just conventional infant food.

I: Is there anything else you can tell me concerning the comparison, how the infants accept it or any problems or positive effects?

TH: The hand-reared, that may also be because of the milk they get, have whiter, nicer teeth as those raised by their mothers. Besides that, there is actually not much different.

APPENDIX C: FACE-TO-FACE CONVERSATION (RECORDED): Schwaben Park employee, 24 September 2012

E (Employee): They will come back on Wednesday. On Thursday they will perform in the show again. They went to the Czech Republic. They perform for a movie. They are in great demand.

I (Investigator): What about the small ones?

E: They are at home.

I: So, they are not in the Czech Republic?

E: No, they took only two or three.

I: I did not see many small ones. Actually I wanted to take photos of them.

E: Some are here. But the very small ones are in the house.

I: Okay. How many are here?

E: I think two of the very small ones. They are one year old, or so.

I: Where can I see them?

E: No, you cannot see them. Sometimes they look out of the window.

I: So, they are here in the Park?

E: No, not here. Only when they (the owners) are here.

I: Where do you get the chimpanzees from? From zoos?

E: No. The breeding is done by the park. There are 46 of them, sometimes they give some to somewhere else. She raised all of those who are rejected by their mothers on her own. She did that in at least six or seven cases.

I: So, they were rejected?

E: Yes, rejected by their mother. Either the mother is too young or, I don't know.

I have seen it myself how they cut the umbilical cord. It was very small.

I: When are they born? In spring?

E: That depends. They are often pregnant. You can see it, it is red down there and thick. Like a woman who has her period or ovulation.

If you pass by the apes over there, there should actually be small ones. There should be some in there. And further on is another small one. That one performs in the chimp show sometimes.

I: Do you know when the next ones will be born?

E: No, I have absolutely no idea.

I: Sometimes you can see when they are pregnant.

E: Rarely. We are not really involved in that. We are not allowed to enter. Only the two of them. The two bosses.

I: It is dangerous to enter?

E: When they drive the chimps down, they have a closed car, beforehand they had an open one. People tried to grab in the car. Also it is not allowed to eat during the show. That deflects the animals. They do everything on their own. They are not forced into that. They like to do it.

They (young chimpanzees) usually come during the day. After the last chimp show they take them home again. They live together in their house. They have their own room and everything. When they are very young... you have to get up every three hours and feed them, just like a baby.

I: How long do they have to stay in that house?

E: I think for two years or so. They try to integrate them slowly.

I: Then they are together with the chimp group?

E: Yes, but they will be in the front enclosure, not in that one.

I: Because they would be too many then?

E: No, but in here are the small ones who haven't been rejected by their mothers.

I: Why do they do that, rejecting their babies or are they taken away?

E: They only raise those who are rejected. The others remain with their mothers.

I: But it is quite sad what happens with them when they are rejected.

E: That's nature! But in the wild they would peg out quite likely.

I: How often does this happen that mothers reject their babies?

E: Surely seven or eight of them. I cannot tell you exactly. Last year they were two or three. Once she had four at the same time. Well, it's not that long that I have been working here, now it is six years.

I: How long does this park exist?

E: 40 years.

I: But they did not build it by their own?

E: Yes, our boss did build everything on his own. It started actually just like a zoo.

I: With how many did he start?

E: I think it was two or three apes. Now they have 46, I think. They also gave some to other zoos. I don't know if you know that but the vet who is looking for the animals was working at the Wilhelma (Stuttgarts zoo). Not everyone is working with these animals.

You can book it to be with the small chimps. You can feed them inside there. But you have to be older than 12. She doesn't allow small children to get in there.

I: With all animals?

E: No, that is not possible.

I: How do they manage to make them participate and do the tricks in the show?

E: They imitate a lot. You only need to stand next to an ape for a while. People show something and they imitate it.

I: Do they get goodies?

E: Yes, when they did a good show and behaved quite well they will get ice cream. But that's only a few apes.

APPENDIX D. FACE-TO-FACE CONVERSATION (RECORDED): Schwaben Park staff, 24 October 2012

I (Investigator): Excuse me, is it true, that the park is will close soon?

E (Employee): Not yet, but soon.

I: It's closed during the winter, right?

E: Yes.

I: And for how long?

E: Until the end of March.

I: Then it is not possible to get in, right?

E: [Shakes head.]

I: Is it closed then, because there are less people, because it is cold or why is that?

E: Snow and cold.

I: And the animals? Do they stay here or is there a winter camp somewhere?

E: They stay here.

I: But also outside, right?

E: [Incomprehensible]

I: And the goats? Where are they then?

E: Down in the barn.

I: Ah, there is a barn? At the petting are or somewhere else?

E: At the petting zoo area, down there, they have a barn there. They are fed and get water and so on. There are people, who work there all winter.

I: They are here then, yes certainly, has to be like that, with so many animals. How many animals are there anyway? Many, right?

E: Yes, many.

I: A lot to take care of, right?

E: Yes. But those from the ape show, that is the boss and his wife. He feeds and attends the apes. He is doing all of that for the apes. And for the other animals there is a boy, he is doing all, goats, sheep, there behind the apes, there are many animals, too.

I: But I have seen that now there many of them pregnant again. Many of them are thick.

E: Which?

I: Those that lie there, all of them are so thick, they are pregnant, no?

E: No idea.

I: They are so thick.

E: Can be, can be. Yes, but he sells many of the goats.

I: Yes, they become too many, right, because every year they get children.

E: Always more, more, more. They get one, they get two. Goats get three even. You have to give them the bottle always. [Incomprehensible.]

I: Is it possible to sell goats to butchers?

E: No, no. I don't know. I can't say anything about that. I know that many people buy [calves? Incomprehensible]. There was a man, he bought six of them. Then somebody comes and buys some, too. Maybe they get big goats... Many people [incomprehensible] milk of goats. I heard that that is very, very healthy.

APPENDIX E. DATA TABLES :**Group1 (3.4)**

Sex	Name	Birth year	Mother	Rearing type	In show?	Remark
Male	Bägges	1982	Mäde	Hand	Yes	Castrated
Male	Boby	1977	?	?	No	From circus
Male	Judy	1969	?	?	No	Received
Female	Julchen	1985	?	Hand	Yes	Received
Female	Kitty	1996	Chita	Hand	No	½ of twins (Pit)
Female	Maya	1990	?	Hand	Yes	Received
Female	Sila	2006	Julchen	Mother	No	-

Group 2 (5.0)

Sex	Name	Birth year	Mother	Rearing type	In show?	Remark
Male	Pit	1996	Chita	Hand	No	½ of twins (Kitty)
Male	Jonny	1994	?	Hand	Yes	Wilhelma Zoo
Male	Tobi	1995	Chita	Hand	Yes	-
Male	David	1994	Chita	Hand	Yes	Castrated
Male	Joe	1993	Chita	Hand	Yes	-

Group 3 (9.6)

Sex	Name	Birth year	Mother	Rearing type	In show?	Remark
Female	Babsi	1984	Chita K	Hand	Yes	-
Male	Charli	1994	Cindy	Mother	No	Castrated
Female	Cindy	1981	?	Hand	No	Zoo Neuwied
Female	Chita	1975	?	?	Yes	8 offspring

Gutachten Schimpansen SchwabenPark - Jan Vermeer – September 2012



Animal Suffering and Public Deception at
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